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March 8, 2022  
  
The Honorable Representative Jamie Becker, Chair

Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary Finance and Civil Law  
  
Re:  Support for HF 3972 - Nondiscrimination and equity required in access to organ transplants  
  
Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee:  
  
I am writing in support for HF 3972, authored by Representative Ruth Richardson. HF 3972 ensures that an individual is not denied an anatomical gift or organ transplant based solely on the basis of race or ethnicity.

A recent peer-reviewed study published in the scientific journal of the Society of University Surgeons and Central Surgical Association, looked at more than 250,000 liver transplant candidates in Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, and the Dakotas and found significant disparities in the odds of a person of color receiving a transplant as compared to their white peers. The article states “…after decades of debate, the existence of racial disparity in access to healthcare is uncontroversial. Racial disparity in access to care has been best described in what are frequently considered advanced interventional or procedural medicine including cardiac catheterization, cardiac surgery, joint replacement, and even solid organ transplantation.”[[1]](#footnote-1)[[2]](#footnote-2)

HF3972 expands on important legislation passed last year as part of the HF2128 prohibiting discrimination based solely on disability. This is a discrimination issue, equity issue, and human rights issues. The Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota offers their full support of HF2128 and asks that you do the same.   
  
Sincerely,  
  
Sarah Curfman

President & CEO

Down Syndrome Association of Minnesota

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1. He D, Mellor JM, Jankowitz E. Racial and ethnic disparities in the surgical treatment of acute myocardial infarction: the role of hospital and physician effects. Med Care Res Rev 2013;70:287-309. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibrahim SA, Kim H, McConnell KJ. The CMS comprehensive care model and racial disparity in joint replacement. JAMA 2016;316:1258-9. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)