

February 4, 2021

Dear House State Government Finance and Elections Committee Members,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), and the Minnesota County IT Leadership Association (MNCITLA), we are writing to express our support for HF35 (Elkins), which would provide grant funding for improvements in local government website accessibility.

We would like to thank both Rep. Elkins for introducing this bill and the stakeholders from the disability community for including our local government organizations in discussion around the best approach for this grant funding.

The way cities and counties connect and serve our communities through digital resources is everchanging. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated a significant expansion of online resources. This innovation creates opportunities and challenges when ensuring that the increasing amount of content is accessible to all people in our communities. The pandemic has also had a negative financial impact, which makes meeting this need even more challenging.

We believe that this grant program will be particularly helpful to smaller cities and counties where there isn't the technology expertise on staff and there are limited budgets. This grant allocation helps bolster local efforts to address the accessibility of our digital resources.

Our associations are currently engaged in education with our members on website accessibility standards. Our hope is that this grant program will provide the financial assistance to allow every county and city in Minnesota to provide online resources accessible and functional for every member of their communities.

Thank you for your time, and we invite any questions you may have.

Sincerely,



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