

State of Minnesota

H. F. No. **641**

and nongovernmental organizations that give funding preferences to those working with this population; loan repayment programs and higher reimbursement rates for providers serving this population; and funding of targeted research that focuses on this population; and

WHEREAS, consequently, the lack of a medically underserved population designation excludes people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from countless programs, services, funding streams, and benefits; and

WHEREAS, most of the requirements for this designation date back to the 1960s and 1970s; however, in 1986, Congress added a provision that allows a governor to request the designation of a population within his or her state from the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under certain circumstances, a process known as the Governor's Exceptional Medically Underserved Population; and

WHEREAS, this process allows designation for unique circumstances and populations that do not fit the conventional definition or rating system for the determination of a medically underserved population; and

WHEREAS, a medically underserved population designation would be a significant step towards addressing the unmet health needs in this population and would officially recognize people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as stakeholders in their own health care, entitled to concrete actions to decrease their health disparities, improve their health, and reduce barriers to their health care; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it:

(1) acknowledges the significant health disparities experienced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and recognizes the benefits that could be realized with federal designation as a medically underserved population; and

(2) strongly urges the Governor to request the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to designate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities as a medically underserved population in the State of Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota.