



AUCD Statement on the Targeted Political Violence in Minnesota

SILVER SPRING, MD - The Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD) is devastated by the targeted political violence that occurred in Minnesota which claimed the lives of State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, as well as the attack on State Senator John Hoffman and his wife who both survived and are recovering.

Senator Hoffman is a longtime and unwavering champion for people with disabilities. Senator Hoffman's leadership has been instrumental in advancing disability rights and services across the state. As a parent of a disabled child, he brings both personal commitment and policy expertise to his work, and he has been a vital partner to Minnesota's disability community for decades.

This act of violence is not only a direct assault on our democracy, but a terrifying reminder of the threats faced by those who advocate for the rights and dignity of people with disabilities. The targeting of Representative Hortman and Senator Hoffman sends a chilling message about the issues they championed.

AUCD condemns this attack in the strongest possible terms. We stand in solidarity with Senator Hoffman, his family, and the disability community in Minnesota. We send our deepest condolences to the family of Representative Hortman. We honor their tireless work and call on leaders at every level to denounce political violence and protect those who dedicate their lives to public service and to ensuring equity for all.