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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 18, 2021, Minneapolis, Minnesota - The Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) and co-counsel Jason Kim, of Schneider Wallace Cottrell Konecky LLP, have filed a federal class action lawsuit challenging a Minnesota law that ends special education eligibility for students on July 1 of the year they turn 21. Our lawsuit argues that a federal law, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), allows students to be eligible up until the student's 22nd birthday, regardless of when they turn 21. Having a longer time for special education eligibility is especially important now because of the impact of Covid-19 on students with disabilities and would help students with different disabilities and who are from different backgrounds statewide.

Our lawsuit seeks a change in Minnesota law to allow special education eligibility for potentially an additional year of education and compensatory education for Minnesota students who missed out on services after their 21st birthday.

Attorney Kim has worked with three other Protection and Advocacy Systems in Connecticut, Hawaii, and Rhode Island in successful lawsuits to similar laws in those states. MDLC is pleased to co-counsel with Mr. Kim in Minnesota in this effort to help students who were wrongfully denied an education receive compensatory education services to make up for the missed help.

Students who are ages 19-21 and receiving special education services may contact MDLC's Kelsey Mize, [kmize@mylegalaid.org](mailto:kmize@mylegalaid.org), for further questions. The Minnesota Disability Law Center, a division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and the state's Protection & Advocacy System, provides legal advocacy and rights protection to people of all ages with disabilities. MDLC assists individuals with disabilities to be free from abuse, neglect and discrimination and helps to promote access to services and community integration. MDLC also addresses issues through policy advocacy, outreach, monitoring, and investigation. More information is available on MDLC website, [Disability Law - Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid \(mylegalaid.org\)](https://www.mylegalaid.org)