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Maryam Mahmoudi, PhD, Post-Doctoral Associate
University of Minnesota Institute on Community Integration
2025 East River Parkway Minneapolis, MN 55414

Dear Dr. Mahmoudi:

Thank you for sharing information about your proposal ***A Feasibility Study: Application Of Brain-Computer Interface In Augmentative And Alternative Communication For Non-Speaking Autistic Populations*** that will explore the application of brain-computer interface augmentative and alternative communication for youth and young adults diagnosed with autism. I am glad to provide my support of your proposed project.

I have witnessed an urgent need to improve access to augmentative and alternative communication interventions for individuals diagnosed with autism whose speech does not meet their daily communication needs. Zisk and Dalton (2019) explained three types of speech disabilities experienced by individuals with autism including (a) intermittent speech in which the individual cannot always speak, (b) unreliable speech in which the spoken words may not match the intent, and (c) insufficient speech in which the individual cannot meet their daily communication needs. Each of these situations prevents an individual with autism from being able to communicate sufficiently to experience academic, social, and emotional development. The National Joint Committee for the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities states that access to appropriate augmentative and alternative communication interventions and technologies to support communication is critical for individuals with autism.

I have over a decade of experience as a licensed speech-language pathologist who focuses on augmentative and alternative communication for individuals with severe communication disabilities, have earned a PhD in this area, hold a certificate of clinical competence from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and serve in a leadership role in the Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association's Augmentative and Alternative Communication Committee. I gladly accept your invitation to consult as-needed for your project and eagerly offer my support for this important endeavor.

Sincerely,



Jolene K Hyppa Martin, PhD, CCC-SLP
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