



February 16, 2023

**RE: SF 455 (Carlson) – Medical Exception to Open Meeting Law**

Dear Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee Members,

The League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota School Boards Association, Minnesota Association of Townships, Association of Minnesota Counties, and Minnesota Inter-County Association support SF 455, which would allow a limited medical exception to the Open Meeting Law.

**Why this bill is needed.** Currently, elected officials are unable to attend meetings in situations where a medical condition prohibits them from being in a public place (such as an immunocompromised person undergoing chemotherapy). Under the limited medical exception provided in this bill, these elected officials would be able to participate in meetings without being exposed to a public setting up to three times in a year.

**Transparency and open government maintained.** If an elected official participates under the medical exception, current law provides safeguards to ensure transparency. All members of the governing body – along with the public – must be able to hear and see discussion, testimony, and votes, and voting must be done by roll call. We have learned that transparency can be maintained with this interactive technology, which makes public office more accessible to all who are interested in serving.

Accordingly, we ask for your support of SF 455.

Sincerely,

Brooke Bordson  
League of Minnesota Cities

Jeff Krueger  
Minnesota Association of Townships

Denise Dittrich  
Minnesota School Boards Association

Matt Hilgart  
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Massman  
Minnesota Inter-County Association