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Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair Senate Health and Human Services Committee HHS Committee Administrator <u>Anna.Burke@senate.mn</u> 2107 Minnesota Senate Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota chapter of the American College of Physicians, we respectfully encourage you to vote in favor of Dr. Brooke Cunningham's nomination as Commissioner to lead the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). The Minnesota chapter of the American College of Physicians (MN-ACP) represents nearly 2500 statewide internal medicine physicians and internal medicine trainees. Dr. Cunningham is an internal medicine physician with extensive training and experience. Her impressive combination of advanced education and real-world work experience give her a unique perspective on the pressing public health issues facing Minnesotans.

Dr. Cunningham's academic training has instilled in her an awareness of the importance of evidence-based solutions, and her work as an internist providing care to Minnesotans gives her practical insights into the daily challenges facing Minnesotans and their communities. Since joining MDH last year, she has shown deep respect for mission of advancing the health of all Minnesotans and strong awareness of the importance of working in partnership with those the department is seeking to serve.

Dr. Cunningham's skills, experience and focus on collaboration will be invaluable as we work together to maximize the health of all Minnesotans while reducing the troubling health disparities in our state. We strongly encourage members of the Senate to support her confirmation.

Thank you for your consideration. Please contact <u>Minnesota.ACP@gmail.com</u> if you have any additional questions.

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Sincerely yours,

David Hilden, MD, MPH, FACP MN-ACP Governor

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Governor MN-ACP Governor-Elect