



January 26, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Senate Health and Human Services Committee  
2107 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate HHS Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), the state's oldest and largest professional association for physicians and physicians-in-training, it is my pleasure to endorse the nomination of Dr. Brooke Cunningham for Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Health. I respectfully encourage committee members to vote in favor of her nomination.

Dr. Cunningham is extraordinarily well suited for this role. Her impressive combination of advanced education and real-world work experience give her a unique perspective on the pressing public health issues facing Minnesotans. Her academic training has instilled in her an awareness of the importance of evidence-based solutions. Her work as a physician providing patient care has given her practical insights into the daily challenges facing Minnesotans and their communities.

The persistent health disparities in Minnesota undermine the health and well-being of all Minnesotans. Dr. Cunningham's commitment to reducing disparities is evident, and her most recent role as Assistant Commissioner for the Health Equity Bureau allowed her to demonstrate her expertise and collaborative style.

The MMA enthusiastically supports Dr. Cunningham's nomination. Her skills, experience, and commitment to collaboration are invaluable attributes that will allow her to successfully lead the department and continue its work to protect, maintain, and improve the health of all Minnesotans.

The MMA looks forward to working with Dr. Cunningham in this role and I encourage members of the Senate to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

William Nicholson, MD  
MMA President