



January 25, 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 Public Health Association, I respectfully encourage you to vote in favor of Dr. Brooke Cunningham's nomination to lead the Minnesota Department of Health.

Dr. Cunningham's impressive combination of advanced education and work experience in healthcare 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, and her work as an internist providing care to Minnesotans gives her practical insights into the daily challenges facing Minnesotans. Since joining the Minnesota Department of Health last year, she has demonstrated deep respect for the mission of advancing the health of all Minnesotans and strong awareness of the importance of working in partnership with communities, especially those most impacted by health disparities.

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. I encourage members of the Senate to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ellen Saliars". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellen" being more prominent than the last name "Saliars".

Ellen Saliars, MPH  
President  
Minnesota Public Health Association