



January 29, 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 School of Public Health, University of Minnesota, I respectfully encourage you to vote in favor of Dr. Brooke Cunningham's nomination to lead the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). Since our school's founding in 1944, we have collaborated closely with MDH to improve the health and wellbeing of Minnesota's communities. I am thrilled that Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan nominated Dr. Cunningham to lead this important department.

Dr. Cunningham's 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, 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 extensive experience in public health, patient care, and public service, coupled with her 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. She has my full support and I encourage members of the Senate to support her confirmation.

Sincerely,

Timothy Beebe, PhD
Interim Dean and Mayo Professor
School of Public Health