



Submitted WRITTEN Testimony on SF 2995 (Wiklund) – Minnesota Dept. of Health Budget

*Testifier: Twila Brase, President and Co-founder
MN Senate Health and Human Services
Thursday, March 23, 2023*

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Twila Brase, I am the president and co-founder of Citizens' Council for Health Freedom. We oppose several provisions of SF 2995. I'll limit my comments to three:

FIRST, SF 2995 includes the collection of "social determinants of health" (SDOH) data. SDOH includes data from every area of one's life. Collecting detailed personal, lifestyle, income, educational, behavioral, and other data on individuals to establish reasons for government intervention in personal lives is a violation of individual, privacy, & constitutional rights.

SECOND, the bill establishes a Long Covid surveillance and research program at a cost of \$3.146 million/year — with NO consent requirements. This new government surveillance system would "(1) monitor trends in: incidence, prevalence, mortality, and health outcomes; care management and costs; changes in disability status, employment, and quality of life; and service needs of individuals with long COVID and to detect potential public health problems, predict risks, and assist in investigating long COVID health inequities."

Private data would be shared with MDH through partnerships with "health care professionals, the Department of Human Services, local public health, health insurers, employers, schools, long COVID survivors, and community organizations serving people at high risk of long COVID."

These unconsented intrusions would violate individual's constitutional rights against "search and seizure" as written in the Minnesota Constitution. Individuals should not be under government surveillance or exposed to involuntary, unconsented government research. These are violations of patient and privacy rights.

THIRD, the bill expands the data collected through the All-Payer Claims Data system, allowing more data to be collected without patient consent. We are very concerned with the MDH proposal to require submission of patient **race and ethnicity data**, as public health officials have been making claims of "health disparities" to push a universal government-run health care system. For example published by the American Public Health Association: *"The Importance of Universal Health Care in Improving Our Nation's Response to Pandemics and Health Disparities."* (Oct 24, 2020)

REQUEST:

Delete the SDOH provisions, the expanded APCD data collection, and the proposed Long Covid surveillance and research system. If these constitutional infringements remain in the bill, we respectfully **request that SF 2995 be sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee**, which to our knowledge hasn't held a hearing on the SDOH or long Covid surveillance provisions. Thank you.