

March 23, 2023

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services


Re: SF 2995—Wiklund: Department of Health provisions modification and appropriation

Dear Chair Wiklund and Members,

The City of Minneapolis appreciates the opportunity to comment in support of SF 2995. We are supportive of many recommendations in the Governor's budget but as the health department serving the largest and most diverse city, these are our priorities:

- **Public Health Systems Transformation:** \$15 million per year for grants to local public health departments. We are grateful for this proposal but know that the needs of our health department are much greater and support the Local Public Health Association's request of \$45 million annually.
- **\$8.4 million for Emergency Preparedness (EP) funding** for local public health departments. Federal funds provide the only stable funding (approximately \$300,000 annually) and state funding is needed. The Minneapolis Health Department has been in constant response mode since 2018 (encampments, Drake Hotel fire, COVID) and federal funds are insufficient to cover staff or community EP expenses.
- **School Based Health Clinics:** \$1.4 million in 2024 increasing to \$2.9 million in 2027. Minneapolis operates eight high school-based clinics and provides integrated medical, mental health and health education services. This funding would help replace federal funds slated to end May 2023.
- **\$2.3 million to improve Community Mental Well-being** and **\$2.7 million for Adolescent Mental Health Promotion.**
- **Targeted Home Visiting:** \$12,500,000 in 2024 to support home visit for pregnant and parenting families. About 40% of Minneapolis births are covered by Medical Assistance yet less than 10% of families are served by home visiting. Home visiting has been shown to improve parent and child well-being through the reduction of adverse childhood experiences.
- **\$11.4 million for Comprehensive Overdose and Morbidity Prevention** so that unsheltered and culturally diverse persons have access to prevention and supportive services.
- **\$7.5 million for grants to strengthen Climate Resiliency** so that local public health agencies such as ours have funding to implement our Climate Equity plan.
- **Supporting long COVID survivors:** \$3.1 million to provide guidance and tools for providers and patients suffering with the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

Sincerely,


Damon Chaplin
Commissioner of Health
City of Minneapolis