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March 22, 2023

Dear Senate Health Policy and Finance Committee,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) urges your support of SF 2995. The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members take care of patients, families and communities across the state. We are leaders in primary care and see it as our job to work with our teams to keep our patients healthy, address health disparities and manage our patients' chronic conditions. Investment in primary care is essential to ensure our health care system works for all Minnesotans and MAFP is pleased to see the many important aspects of this bill that support patients and primary care.

The MAFP supports the primary care workforce funding recommendations in the bill. Additional investment to support the future primary care workforce is critical. Training family physicians where they are needed most through rural training residency programs and grants to support medical education in rural and underserved areas are an important step in ensuring Minnesota has a physician workforce to meet our needs.

The MAFP supports the creation of the health care spending target commission. The establishment of health care spending targets can a valuable tool to center value and quality of care in our system. As evidenced in other states, targets that increase investment in primary care can help reorientate our health care system to one focused on prevention, continuity of care, and connection to important social support through team-based care. Primary care clinicians and patients are an important voice in this work to ensure that our system centers health and wellness over volume and profits.

Family physicians and primary care are critical to health care in Minnesota. Supporting primary care workforce development, identifying ways to remove barriers to care and ensuring we have a system that adequately values and invests in primary care are essential considerations as this committee looks to the future. Your investment in primary care is much needed and the MAFP is ready to partner on these important initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alexis Vosooney". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Alexis Vosooney, MD
President, MAFP