Honorable Chair Wickland, Ranking Minority Member Utke and Vice Chair Mann:

I writing to notify you that I vigorously support for SF2995: "COVID delayed preventive care" and am asking you to do the same.

I have practiced cardiology for 40 years at the University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic Rochester, and HealthPartners. Because I recognize that disease prevention is so much more powerful than attempts at cure, I have focused my practice on disease prevention. In addition to providing clinical services, I have also been active in state-wide, regional and local community-based disease prevention programs.

Covid-19 has disproportionately burdened disadvantaged communities with death, disease, and economic hardship. It has also disrupted the delivery of preventive services that members of these communities seek, need, and deserve. SF2995 can help rectify the harm of Covid-19.

Again, please support, advocate, and vote for SF2995.

Thank you,

Thomas E. Kottke, MD, MSPH 571 Otis Avenue St. Paul, MN 55104 Home: 651 330 4782 Mobile: 612 240 5811