



ADVOCATES FOR
BETTER HEALTH

ABH is dedicated to creating a healthy, equitable, and thriving state by engaging physicians and medical students in community-driven public health initiatives.

March 31st, 2023

RE: Letter of Support for SF1948

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

My name is Zeke McKinney, and I am an Occupational and Environmental Medicine physician practicing in the Twin Cities. I am writing on behalf of Advocates for Better Health (ABH), formerly the Twin Cities Medical Society. ABH is an organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. I'm writing in support of SF1948, a bill to increase biomarker testing for more Minnesotans. We're glad to see that SF1948 has been included in SF2995.

Biomarker testing is an important tool in treating Minnesotans more effectively when they experience diagnoses like cancer, arthritis, and more. This in turn will increase quality of life and improve prognosis when our community members are facing serious illness and disease. Biomarker testing allows us to more precisely treat patients, ensuring they receive treatment that is more timely, and more appropriate, based on their own unique genetic makeup. It will save lives, and it will also save healthcare costs. Ensuring that biomarker testing is covered by state-regulated health insurance plans is a win for providers and patients alike.

Myself, and my colleagues, treat patients every day whose lives and treatment plans could be significantly improved by increased access to biomarker testing. Minnesota is often a nationwide leader in healthcare and increasing access to these tools helps cement our legacy and improve health for all Minnesotans.

I hope that you will support this bill—it will make a positive difference in so many lives.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zeke McKinney', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Zeke McKinney, MD, MHI, MPH
President, Advocates for Better Health