



March 30, 2023

Chair: [Senator Melissa H. Wiklund](#)

Location: (Hybrid Hearing) G-15 Capitol

Subject: Written testimony for bill #SF2995

Dear Senator Melissa,

As the President of the Hmong Health Care Professionals Coalition, we support the bill # SF2995.

Our coalition is a grassroots partnership of Hmong public health experts based in St. Paul. Since its founding in 1995, the HHPC has grown to become a central public health resource for Minnesota's Hmong community. Its members and volunteers participate in research, educate patients, develop best practices, and provide leadership to other health groups. For over 25 years, we have been providing free flu clinics regardless of insurance coverage, hosting health conferences, doing health screenings at the J4 Freedom Festival and doing videos and Hmong talk show radio on various topics to educate the Hmong community. HHPC have been on the forefront in the community with providing educational awareness, education on COVID, the vaccine and working tirelessly with covid and flu clinics.

During the pandemic, our coalition saw the biggest struggle and racial disparity within the Hmong community. As a Hmong American woman, I saw my community get hit with the pandemic the hardest. For those that didn't have education or literacy understanding, they didn't know where to go to get their vaccine. That is still a problem today, where people in our community don't have established primary care physicians or how to navigate the healthcare system on how to find dental care or set up for preventative care. Due to language barriers, they are left waiting for their children or family caregivers to handle these wearying tasks for them. We need funding from a bill like #SF2995 to allow us to keep doing our work and continue to close the gap on the racial disparity. The pandemic is not over yet and our work is not done yet.

In Conclusion, the Hmong Health Care Professionals Coalition appreciates the opportunity to support the bill #SF2995 and look forward to continued collaboration. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide our written testimony.

Sincerely,

Yangmee Lor

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President, Hmong Health Care Professionals Coalition