

March 31, 2023

Dear Senate Health and Human Services 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.

Thank you for the inclusion of the additional collection of non-claims data by the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD) on **page 86.21**. The APCD will be a stronger tool with this additional data. Policymakers will benefit from the studies outlined on **page 94.1**, which will assist in the understanding of current utilization of value-based payment arrangements and begin to provide a baseline for Minnesota's investment in primary care.

Thank you for your inclusion of this important provision on **page 83.17** to protect patients who are on an established treatment from being forced to change drugs by their insurer or PBM, during the middle of their contract year. Allowing payers and PBMs to adjust their formularies without impacting those patients that are already on an effective medication strikes the right balance.

The MAFP was pleased to see the inclusion of coverage for post-partum long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) on **page 9.7**. LARCs are highly effective and have a high level of patient satisfaction. If LARC is the right option, many patients desire to have it placed while they are still in the hospital post-partum. This coverage will make an important difference for these patients.

As the pandemic began, family physicians and other health care clinicians across the state quickly transitioned to telehealth, allowing them to continue to provide patient care safely. Telehealth has become an effective tool to assist many patients that do not need to be seen in the clinic. Audio-only telehealth is effective and its continued coverage until 2025 on **page 65.10** is critical to ensure equitable access to health care across the state.

The MAFP was disappointed that support for family medicine rural training residency programs and loan forgiveness programs to recruit physicians to underserved areas were not included in SF 2995. Additional investment to support the future primary care workforce is critical. Training family physicians where they are needed most through rural training residency programs is an important step in ensuring Minnesota has a physician workforce to meet our needs. Loan forgiveness programs have been an

effective tool for incentivizing primary care clinicians where we need them most. We hope to see these important provisions, that were in the Governor's recommendations, in future proposals.

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 treatments 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 that reads "Maria Huntley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Maria Huntley, CAE, MAM
Chief Executive Officer, MAFP