



April 15, 2024

The Honorable Mary Kunesch  
Chair, Senate Education Finance Committee  
3209 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Kunesch and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) is writing in support of the inclusion of the Health Standards provisions within your Education Finance Omnibus bill.

ACOG is the main organization representing and supporting obstetricians and gynecologists in Minnesota. ACOG produces practice guidelines for health care professionals, and educational materials for patients, provides practice management and career support, facilitates programs and initiatives to improve women's health, and advocates for members and patients.

Our members see first-hand the importance of data-driven, evidence-based health education for our patients and their families. Our state and communities are seeing a rise in syphilis and tragically congenital syphilis, among other rising sexually transmitted diseases and conditions. The Minnesota Section of ACOG has recently partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health to push out increased syphilis screening and education among our members. More is needed, though, and increased education in schools is vital to combat this epidemic.

This bill is critically needed to ensure Minnesota's youth are receiving the information they need to be aware of health risks and to be able to make important, informed health choices.

Thank you for including this important provision in your bill.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Slagle, MD  
MN ACOG Chair