

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Steve Cwodzinski
3207 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155



The Honorable Erin Maye Quade
3227 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155



The Honorable Nicole Mitchell
3229 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Cwodzinski, Sen. Maye Quade, Sen. Mitchell, and Members of the Senate Education Policy Committee,



On behalf of our school boards, superintendents and administrators we would like to share some important concerns about SF 16 and SF 1048, which propose new health coursework requirements to physical and sexual abuse education and for sexually transmitted infections and diseases programs.



We have testified in the past with concerns about any new or additional required courses or education programs and wanted to again place our concerns on the record.

While we understand the importance of ensuring comprehensive health education for Minnesota students, these proposed changes are unnecessary given the current legislative framework.



Last year, the Legislature mandated the establishment of statewide academic standards in health education, ensuring that key health-related topics are adequately addressed. Specifically, requiring the Minnesota Department of Education to develop and adopt health education standards that include comprehensive instruction in a range of critical areas, including:



1. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and automatic external defibrillator (AED) education for students in grades 7 through 12.
2. Vaping awareness and prevention education for students in grades 6 through 8.



3. Cannabis use and substance use education for students in grades 6 through 12.
4. Sexually transmitted infections and diseases education in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.23.
5. Mental health education for students in grades 4 through 12.

Given that sexually transmitted infections and diseases education is explicitly required within the existing statutory framework, additional legislative mandates are redundant and unnecessary burdens on local school districts. The health education standards currently in development already provide a structured approach to covering these topics.

Districts must retain flexibility to implement state health standards in a way that best serves their student populations while maintaining time for other essential academic subjects.

We urge you to oppose SF 16 and SF 1048 and allow the health education standards process to proceed as legislated last session. These new mandates are not only unnecessary but also undermine the comprehensive approach already being taken to ensure that students receive vital health education.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Minnesota School Boards Association

Minnesota Association of School Administrators

Association of Metropolitan School Districts

Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association

Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals

Minnesota Association of School Business Officials

Minnesota Administrators for Special Education