

March 5, 2025

Chair Wiklund
Senate Health and Human Services
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 2043

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

We are writing in support of **SF 2043** which creates a healthcare interpreter services working group tasked with providing recommendations that improve and support access to healthcare interpreting services statewide.

Accurate and effective communication between patients and health care providers is critical to the quality-of-care Minnesotans receive and the health outcomes they experience. Minnesota's health care interpreting community plays a vital role in bridging language barriers between health care providers and patients. Optimal communication, patient satisfaction, and outcomes and the fewest interpreter errors occur when limited English proficient patients have access to trained professional interpreters.

Yet, significant challenges exist in providing access to interpreter services including workforce challenges, insufficient reimbursement, and accessibility barriers. Healthcare interpreting needs are changing, and this bill creates a much-needed space for the healthcare interpreting profession to collaborate on solutions that address these challenges.

This bill before you was drafted through a collaborative approach, including input from interpreters, educators, state departments, health systems, health plans, professional associations and others – and the outcome of this workgroup will be collaborative recommendations that increase access to quality interpreter services for patients, improve healthcare outcomes, decrease health disparities, and address healthcare interpreting workforce shortages.

Thank you for bringing this legislation forward and we respectfully ask the committee to support this bill.



HENNEPIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

