



## Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association

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

Please accept this letter of support on behalf of the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA) and its nearly 2,000 member veterinarians. We strongly support the proposed \$1.3 million/year funding in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for infectious disease prevention, early detection, and outbreak response that is included in the current version of SF 2669 (lines 128.4–128.10).

Veterinarians play a vital role in Minnesota's public health infrastructure, often serving as frontline responders in the detection and management of zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and emerging health threats.

Effective public health initiatives require collaboration between human and animal health sectors, and the proposed funding would ensure that the Minnesota Department of Health has the necessary resources to protect our communities and Minnesota producers from infectious disease risks. To protect human health, we must ensure we have healthy animals. Ensuring that our health department has the funding to work as a team to prevent and respond to diseases such as the H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is imperative.

The MVMA strongly urges the Minnesota Legislature to pass SF 2669 with this funding included to provide the Minnesota Department of Health with the resources needed to effectively combat infectious diseases. We appreciate the leadership and commitment demonstrated by the Governor and Legislature in prioritizing this essential public health funding.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Kelly Andrews, CAE  
Executive Director