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SF2669 Letter of Support: Infectious disease prevention, response, and outbreak control

March 25, 2025

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD), I am writing to express our strong support for SF 2669 related to state funding for the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) vector-borne disease response initiatives. As an organization dedicated to promoting health and well-being by protecting the public from diseases and nuisances caused by mosquitoes, black flies, and ticks, MMCD recognizes the critical role that MDH plays in safeguarding Minnesota's public health.

Vector-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus and Lyme disease, pose significant threats to our communities. La Crosse Encephalitis, spread in our area by mosquitoes, is especially dangerous for young children. The incidence of these diseases has been rising, emphasizing the need for robust disease surveillance, public education, and rapid response measures. MDH's leadership in coordinating statewide efforts is essential to effectively address these challenges and protect Minnesotans from these health risks.

We have benefited from MDH's ability to receive federal funding for this work. As you know, infectious disease activities at MDH are over 90% federally funded. As federal resources are cut and costs increase, this disease investigation work will not continue without state funding.

Ongoing state funding for MDH will ensure our continued ability to monitor and respond to vector-borne disease threats. These resources will maintain disease surveillance programs and allow for MMCD's continued, on-the-ground response and implementation of control measures when Minnesotans contract these diseases. These efforts are vital in reducing disease transmission and ensuring the health and safety of our residents.

We respectfully request your support for SF2669 to provide ongoing funding for infectious disease prevention, response, and outbreak control through MDH's vector-borne disease response initiatives. **This \$1.3 Million annual investment is crucial to continue Minnesota's preparedness and response capabilities against these dangerous diseases.**

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Your support will significantly contribute to protecting the health and well-being of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,


Daniel Huff, MPA, REHS
Executive Director