



March 26th, 2025

Senate Health Committee Members

On behalf of the School Nurse Organization of Minnesota (SNOM), We express our strong support for funding for infectious disease detection in SF2669. As frontline healthcare professionals within our education system, we witness firsthand the impact of infectious diseases on students, staff, and the broader community. Strengthening detection and response capabilities is critical to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment.

Schools serve as a hub for children from diverse backgrounds, making them particularly vulnerable to the rapid spread of illnesses such as influenza, COVID-19, strep throat, and other communicable diseases. Early detection through enhanced screening, testing, and monitoring programs is essential in preventing outbreaks and minimizing disruptions to education. Unfortunately, many school health offices lack the necessary resources, including rapid testing supplies, personal protective equipment, and dedicated funding for public health initiatives.

By investing in infectious disease detection, we can:

- Reduce absenteeism among students and staff by identifying and mitigating illnesses early.
- Prevent the spread of infectious diseases within school communities and beyond.
- Provide timely and effective interventions that protect children, families, and educators.
- Alleviate the burden on local healthcare systems by addressing concerns at the school level.

We urge your support in allocating dedicated funding for infectious disease detection and response. Such funding will enable us to implement proactive strategies that safeguard student well-being and ensure uninterrupted learning.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial matter. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and share insights from our experiences in school healthcare.

Tara Cliff
President SNOM