March 3, 2026

Senator Matt Klein, Chair
Senate Commerce Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for S.F. No. 1302 (Mann) and increasing access to clinical genetic testing

Dear Chair Klein and committee members,

The Minnesota Genetic Counselors Association (MNGCA) appreciates the opportunity to write in support of S.F. No. 1302 (Mann). The MNGCA was founded in 2007 and represents over 100 genetic counselors and genetic counseling graduate students from across the state of Minnesota. One of MNGCA's goals is to increase access to genetic counseling and genetic testing, especially at a time when genetics is playing an increasingly important role in health care. Genetic counselors are specially trained to help patients and their families understand genetic issues and conditions they may face, including hereditary cancer conditions.

Cancer genetic testing may provide management recommendations, like preventative imaging or screening, and future cancer risk information. Despite the updates in clinical guidelines (e.g. National Comprehensive Cancer Network), insurance companies may choose to follow their own recommendations, which are often outdated and not comprehensive. A lack of insurance accountability forces vulnerable patients to decide between paying out of pocket or opting out of genetic testing. Furthermore, all patients found to have a hereditary cancer condition are at risk of not receiving evidence-based screening and imaging because insurance companies are not required to cover the cost of these services. In those cases, patients may end up with a more advanced or metastatic cancer, which may have been otherwise detected earlier.

We ask for your support for the S.F. No. 1302 bill, so that patients can access affordable and comprehensive cancer care. MNGCA is available as a resource for questions and concerns.

Thank you for your consideration,

Minnesota Genetic Counselors Association