March 4, 2026

Re: Support for SF 3859

Dear Chair Klein and members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protections Committee,

On behalf of Allina Health, I write in support of SF 3859. This legislation creates a transparent, multidisciplinary, science-driven body to develop and publish recommended vaccine schedules and to provide evidence-based guidance regarding immunization requirements.

Vaccines are among the safest and most effective medical interventions in modern health care. They undergo extensive clinical trials before approval and are continuously monitored for safety and effectiveness after they are in use. As a result of this rigorous process, vaccines have dramatically reduced illness and death from serious infectious diseases.

Public confidence in vaccines is essential to protecting individual patients and the broader community. Misinformation has played a significant role in vaccine hesitancy, despite overwhelming scientific consensus that vaccines are safe and effective.

SF 3859 strengthens Minnesota's public health infrastructure by establishing a formal advisory council composed of trusted scientists, clinicians, nurses, pharmacists, public health leaders, Tribal health representatives, and academic infectious disease experts. By requiring that recommendations be grounded in peer-reviewed scientific studies and sound public health policy, the bill reinforces a clear commitment to evidence-based decision-making.

At a time of uncertainty at the federal level, including potential changes to national advisory recommendations or funding, Minnesota benefits from having a stable, state-level, science-based process to review emerging evidence and maintain continuity in vaccine policy. Ensuring that evidence-based recommended vaccines remain accessible and covered helps prevent cost barriers and supports strong vaccination rates statewide.

We respectfully urge your support for SF 3859. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to protecting the health of our communities.

Sincerely,

Kristen McHenry

Kristen McHenry
Vice President, Public Affairs and Community Engagement