



March 20, 2023

The Honorable Tina Liebling, Chair
Health Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: HF 2930, Public Health System Transformation

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee,

Thank you for the inclusion of \$15 million per year to support building capacity of local health departments to fulfill foundational public health responsibilities. (Article 1, Section 2(t))

As the immediate past chair of the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC), a member of the state's 21st Century Public Health Joint Leadership Team, and a member of the Association of Minnesota's Counties (AMC) Public Health and Human Services Committee, and as an Olmsted County Commissioner, I strongly support the Public Health System Transformation proposal in HF 2930.

All Minnesota residents, regardless of where they live, should have access to a baseline set of public health services in their communities which ensure equitable health outcomes. This funding for local public health entities will advance Minnesota's ability to achieve that aim.

Earlier this year SCHSAC, local public health, and MDH partnered to provide a [legislative report](#) with results from an assessment of the capacity of Minnesota's public health system. The report documents that the capacity of public health departments varies widely across the state.

Minnesota's public health system strains to keep up with the rapidly changing technology, social, and health needs of our communities. It is time to rebuild and reinvigorate Minnesota's public health system. The investment included in HF 2930 is

focused on foundational responsibilities and will build much needed capacity in our local health departments.

The funds will be used at the local level to build communications capacity, address technology needs, build community partnerships, and hire and retain staff to protect and promote health. While we estimate \$45 million will be needed to build out the foundational framework at the local level, we are grateful that HF 2930 makes a substantial commitment to this public health system transformation.

These foundational funds will increase local health departments' capacity to address health inequities, assess and understand health threats for each community, prepare for and respond to emergencies such as disease outbreaks or flooding, ensure our youngest residents get a healthy start, and prevent and control infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis or Measles.

Minnesotans and Minnesota benefits when there is equitable access to a strong public health system from border-to-border. Thank you for making a commitment to transforming Minnesota's public health system so it is prepared to meet the needs of all our communities.

Sincerely,

Sheila Kiscaden

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State Community Health Advisory Committee

Public Health Joint Leadership Team

Olmsted County Commissioner

Cc Kari Oldfield-Tabbert, Local Public Health Association
