



Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of All Minnesotans

April 15, 2026

Representative Robert Bierman
Chair, Health Finance and Policy
658 Minnesota Centennial Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jeff Backer
Chair, Health Finance and Policy
658 Minnesota Centennial Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Bierman and Chair Backer,

I am writing to express appreciation for your work on the House Health budget bill, HF4466, and for your continued support of the Minnesota Department of Health.

The Department of Health provisions in HF4466 include several updates to improve efficiency and support core public health functions. These include aligning language with legislative intent, as well as budget-neutral proposals such as extending the Health Care Loan Forgiveness Fund, clarifying newborn screening fee exemptions, establishing parity for Tribal public health with Minnesota's other community health boards, and restoring administrative funding for substance use grants.

The bill also includes transfers of authority to better align responsibilities across agencies, including transitioning health plan regulatory authority to the Department of Commerce and transferring coordination and crisis phone services from the Department of Human Services to MDH.

Together, these provisions support a strong and responsive public health system and help ensure MDH can continue to meet the needs of Minnesotans.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership. MDH looks forward to continuing to work with you as HF4466 moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Brooke A. G.' with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brooke Cunningham, MD, PhD
Commissioner