

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

P.O. Box 64560
St. Paul, MN 55164-0560
(651) 662-8000 / (800) 382-2000



March 3, 2020

Transportation Finance and Policy Division

Rep. Frank Hornstein	Rep. Brad Tabke	Rep. Paul Torkelson
Rep. Connie Bernardy	Rep. Steve Elkins	Rep. Alice Hausman
Rep. John Heinrich	Rep. Erin Koegel	Rep. Jon Koznick
Rep. Sandra Masin	Rep. Michael Nelson	Rep. Tim O'Driscoll
Rep. John Petersburg	Rep. Ruth Richardson	Rep. Linda Runbeck
Rep. Nolan West	Rep. Dan Wolgamott	Rep. Cheryl Youakim
Rep. Lyndon Carlson, Sr.		

RE: HF 3072 (clean air for kids in cars)

Dear Chair Hornstein and Committee Members:

I am writing to urge you to support **HF 3072**, which protects youth from secondhand smoke and e-cigarette aerosol exposure in vehicles.

As the largest health plan in Minnesota, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota is committed to improving the health of all Minnesotans, which is why we strongly support statewide policy change such as this bill.

Minnesota has made great strides in protecting kids and adults from the harms of secondhand smoke, with the passage of the clean indoor air act in 2007 which prohibited smoking in bars and restaurants. Last year, the legislature successfully strengthened the law with the inclusion of e-cigarette aerosol. Minnesotans are counting on us to extend those protections to our cars.

In 2017, Blue Cross released a study showing that each year, smoking claims over 6,000 Minnesota lives and costs our state **\$7.5 billion** in health care costs and lost productivity. The staggering costs of tobacco in both health care costs and loss of life cannot be compared to the loss of profits for those who want to continue to sell these lethal products.

I hope you will take this positive step toward making a smoke-free generation for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Steffen". The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Mark Steffen, M.D., M.P.H.
Vice President, Chief Medical Officer
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota

bluecrossmn.com