



2355 Fairview Ave #139, Roseville, MN 55113
www.metrodoctors.com | 612-623-2885

The mission of the Twin Cities Medical Society is to connect, represent, and engage physicians in improving the practice of medicine, policy development and public health initiatives.

May 5, 2021

Taxes Conference Committee

RE: HF991 (Omnibus Tax Bill)

Dear Conference Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society. The Twin Cities Medical Society (TCMS) is an organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. I am writing in support of the proposed tobacco prevention and treatment funding in HF991. Our physician members share all too often that tobacco is still a problem for their patients. Tobacco use remains the #1 cause of preventable disease and death in Minnesota.

Youth tobacco use in Minnesota has risen for the first time in 18 years, in large part due to e-cigarettes. Exposure to nicotine during adolescence can cause life-long problems with learning, memory and attention. There is no safe amount of nicotine for young people, and tobacco unfortunately also harms many other Minnesotans. Dedicating \$15 million, currently proposed in the House bill, in tobacco prevention and treatment would be game-changing in the amount of support that would help reduce youth tobacco use and assist Minnesotans in quitting tobacco products.

Given that smoking related disease and illness ends up costing Minnesota over \$3 billion annually (Blue Cross Blue Shield), investing in prevention and treatment will not only be economically smart for Minnesota, but will significantly improve health and quality of life for countless Minnesotans and their families.

TCMS urges you to invest in tobacco treatment and prevention and subsequently protect our kids and tobacco users looking to quit. Including ongoing investments in tobacco prevention, like the \$15 million proposed in the House bill, is a way to invest in a healthier future for all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Traxler", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Sarah Traxler, MD, MS, FACOG
President of the Twin Cities Medical Society