



*Protecting, Maintaining and Improving the Health of
All Minnesotans*

April 25, 2024

The Honorable Liz Olson
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee,

I am writing to you today to express my appreciation for the inclusion of several important proposals addressing the Administration's public health priorities in the House Climate & Energy, Agriculture, and Commerce Omnibus bill (HF4975). These include funding for cannabis education programming for youth and pregnant and breastfeeding families, as well as the private well drinking water assistance program.

By including the funding and technical changes requested in the Governor's budget for cannabis education programming, the Department of Health will be able to provide a long-term, coordinated cannabis education for youth, pregnant and breastfeeding women, and local and Tribal health departments. These changes will allow the department to establish new cannabis education programming as well as hire the staff needed to carry out the programming. The changes will also allow for a funding increase in grant administration for the Minnesota Poison Control System.

The new private well drinking water assistance program will partially fund the Governor's proposal to address the public health impact of nitrate contamination in private wells in southeast Minnesota. Additionally, I appreciate the inclusion of Clean Water Fund appropriations in the House Legacy Finance bill (HF4124) to further assist with the nitrate response and our drinking water contaminants of emerging concern program. While additional funding will be needed to address this drinking water challenge, the Minnesota Department of Health looks forward to working with you and your House colleagues to find creative solutions to this issue.

I appreciate the hard work that the Committees, along with your staff, have put into creating these bills.

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 of Health

Cc: Representative Leon Lillie, Chair, House Legacy Finance Committee
Representative Zack Stephenson, Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Representative Samantha Vang, Chair, House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee