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January 23, 2023

Dear House Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) urges your support of HF 2, an act relating to paid family and medical leave. This important language ensures that Minnesotans can receive benefits for qualifying bonding, family care, pregnancy, serious health condition, qualifying exigency, or safety leave events.

Paid family leave has important implications for the primary care workforce and the patients we care for. The MAFP supports our patients' rights to take leave time without fear of losing substantial annual wages. Paid family leave has demonstrated benefits, including lower infant and child mortality, increased rates of breastfeeding, increased rates of newborn care and immunization uptake, improved parental bonding and better outcomes in maternal mental health.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members take care of patients, families and communities across the state. We look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues and are appreciative of our shared commitment to the health of Minnesotans. We ask that you please support HF 2 to ensure access to paid family and medical leave in our state.

Sincerely,

Alexis Vosooney, MD President, MAFP