Children's MINNESOTA

The Kid Experts™

March 17, 2026
Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing in support of SF3859 because it protects access and coverage for routine immunizations and supports evidenced-based vaccine recommendations.

Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric healthcare system, seeing more than 160,000 kids each year. We are committed to improving children's health by providing the highest-quality, family-centered care, advanced through research and education. This includes partnering with families as they make decisions about vaccines for their children, assuring them that vaccines are safe and effective and highlighting the critical role they play in protecting children, families and communities from serious illness.

Recent changes to childhood vaccine recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have left many Minnesota families with questions, including whether or not immunizations recommended by their provider will continued to be covered by their insurance. This bill will protect families' ability to access vaccines based on recommendations grounded in science-based evidence.

Since 2020 Minnesota has continued to see a dangerous declines in childhood vaccination rates, resulting in more cases of vaccine preventable diseases like measles and whooping cough. In a time where families are receiving mixed messages about vaccines it is important for our state to continue to support families with clear information and recommendations based on decades of research and monitoring, ensuring that all recommended vaccines will be covered. If we don't act now, I fear that we will continue to see more and more children impacted by diseases we know how to prevent, weakening community immunity and making it easier for these diseases to spread.

SF3859 is foundational to protecting the public health of Minnesotans and I urge your support.

Sincerely,

Gigi Chawla, MD, MHA
Vice President and Chief of General Pediatrics
Children's Minnesota