Minnesota Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

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Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), representing Minnesota pediatricians committed to the health and well-being of children and families, we write in support of SF 4416. This legislation helps ensure that Minnesota's immunization standards are based on current, evidence-based medical guidance from expert pediatric and public health organizations.

Routine immunizations are among the most effective tools to prevent serious diseases and protect public health. Clear, science-based immunization policy is critical to sustaining these public health gains and safeguarding children across Minnesota.

SF 4416 clarifies that "medically acceptable standards" for immunizations will be the schedule determined by the Commissioner of Health using evidence-based medical science and informed by the recommendations of leading national authorities, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). These expert bodies evaluate extensive clinical and epidemiologic evidence when developing immunization recommendations.

In response to recent federal changes affecting the national vaccine schedule and the ACIP advisory process, AAP has reiterated its commitment to evidence-based vaccine recommendations and published its own immunization schedule that reflects longstanding pediatric guidance. AAP and other leading medical organizations have also emphasized that weakening evidence-based vaccine guidance or reducing transparency in the recommendation process can undermine public confidence and public health protections.

By grounding Minnesota's immunization policies in expert, evidence-based recommendations, SF 4416 helps ensure clarity for clinicians, families, and institutions while responding appropriately as scientific knowledge evolves.

For these reasons, MNAAP urges your support for SF 4416.

Sincerely,

Katie Smentek, MD
President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics