Written Testimony in Opposition to S.F. No. 3439

Date: March 16, 2026

To: Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Subject: Strong Opposition to S.F. No. 3439 – Elimination of Conscientious Exemptions for MMR Immunizations

To the Members of the Committee,

I am writing today as a parent and concerned citizen to express my **strong opposition** to S.F. No. 3439. This bill seeks to amend Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.15, to effectively eliminate the right of parents and guardians to utilize a conscientious belief exemption for the measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine.

The foundation of a free society rests on the principle of bodily autonomy and the right of individuals—and parents on behalf of their children—to make deeply personal healthcare decisions. By mandating that the conscientious exemption no longer applies to the MMR vaccine for children in childcare, preschool, or K-12 schools effective August 1, 2026, **this legislation represents an overreach of state power.**

My opposition is rooted in the following concerns:

- **Parental Rights and Medical Autonomy:** Parents are the primary stakeholders in their children's lives. We must empower parents to make healthcare decisions that they believe are in the best interests of their own children without state-mandated coercion.
- **Inconsistency in Bodily Autonomy:** There is a glaring contradiction in supporting the principle of "my body, my choice" in some contexts while simultaneously proposing legislation that removes a parent's choice regarding medical interventions for their children. The state should not be allowed to force its power upon an individual's body.
- **Impact on Educational Access:** Under this bill, if a parent has previously filed a conscientious exemption, they would be forced to either provide documentation of immunization or obtain a medical-only exemption to remain enrolled in school or childcare. This places an undue burden on families who hold sincere, non-medical beliefs.

S.F. No. 3439 erodes the long-standing balance between public health and individual liberty in Minnesota. I urge you to respect the rights of parents and the sanctity of conscientious beliefs by voting **NO** on this bill.

Respectfully,

Michael Babcock
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