Written Testimony in Opposition to S.F. No. 4416

Date: March 16, 2026

To: Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Subject: Strong Opposition to S.F. No. 4416 – Removal of Oversight for Immunization Schedule Modifications

To the Members of the Committee,

I am writing today as a parent and concerned citizen of Minnesota to express my **strong opposition** to S.F. No. 4416. This bill proposes dangerous changes to how our state's immunization schedule is determined, effectively *stripping away critical layers of oversight and accountability*.

As a parent, I believe that ***healthcare decisions for children must remain with their families***. However, S.F. No. 4416 moves us in the opposite direction by granting the Commissioner of Health nearly unilateral power to adopt modifications to immunization requirements.

My opposition is based on the following concerns:

- **Lack of Oversight and Accountability:** By amending current statutes, this bill allows the Commissioner of Health to adopt modifications that "take into consideration" recommendations rather than being bound by established legislative or public standards. ***This grants an unelected official immense power over the bodies of our children with minimal democratic check.***
- **Government Overreach:** The state should not have the authority to force medical mandates upon individuals. *It is deeply frustrating to hear the constant refrain of "my body, my choice" from the very party proposing this legislation*. True bodily autonomy must apply to all medical decisions, including the choice of which vaccines are right for a child's specific health profile.
- **A Shift Toward Control:** Under the guise of "public health," this bill amounts to government overreach. It erodes the transparency of the rulemaking process by allowing the Commissioner to bypass certain standard procedures when determining "medically acceptable standards".

We must protect the rights of parents to be the primary decision-makers for their children. S.F. No. 4416 is a step toward state control and away from parental and individual liberty. I urge this committee to uphold the principles of accountability and bodily autonomy by voting **NO** on S.F. No. 4416.

Respectfully,

Michael Babcock
Saint Paul, MN 55106