Waseca County

Waseca County Courthouse
307 N. State Street
Waseca, MN 56093-2953
Phone: 507-835-0640
Fax: 507-835-0633

Dear Senator Melissa Wiklund and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

I write to you today in support of the proposed amendment to Section 145A of Minnesota Statute that would expand the membership of the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) to include representatives from Minnesota's federally recognized Tribal Nations. This is part of S.F. 4091.

SCHSAC exists by statue to "advise, consult with, and make recommendations to the commissioner on the development, maintenance, funding, and evaluation of local public health services."

As a County Commissioner, I value the opportunity that SCHSAC allows me to build the local and state partnership that has been the cornerstone of Minnesota's public health system for fifty years. As Chair of SCHSAC, I recognize that an important public health partner has been missing from SCHSAC – Tribal Nations are a key partner in protecting public health in Minnesota and we need their voices to be part of SCHSAC.

I, and other leaders in SCHSAC, support this change for many reasons, but most importantly because we recognize Tribal Sovereignty and tribal public health authority, and the importance and value of partnering with Tribal Nations on public health work.

With your support, we have been working to transform Minnesota's public health system into the seamless, responsive, publicly supported governmental public health system that Minnesotans need and deserve to face today's public health challenges. Adding Tribal members to SCHSAC is an important early step towards achieving this goal.

This change is long overdue. SCHSAC has been doing its' work for far too long with an important partner missing.

I urge you to support this amendment to allow a change to SCHSAC's membership.
Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

DeAnne F. Malterer

DeAnne Malterer
Waseca County Commissioner
SCHSAC Chair