



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR MINNESOTA

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Dear Health and Human Services Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) urges your support of SF 610. Senate file 610 would allow childcare centers and family childcare programs to require attendees older than two months old be fully vaccinated, unless there is a medical exemption.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members take care of patients, families, and communities across the state. We are leaders in primary care and see it as our job to work with our teams to keep our patients healthy, address health disparities and manage our patients' chronic conditions. Part of that work is helping our patients understand the importance of immunizations and the collective impact that being immunized has on our communities. Vaccinations are one of the most effective, highest yield medical breakthroughs ever. Since the advent of vaccines innumerable illnesses have been averted, hospitalizations prevented and lives saved. Vaccination remains one of the most important and effective public health tools at reducing and in some cases even eliminating communicable diseases.

Family physicians work hard to address questions and provide resources to ensure that parents have their questions answered and understand the importance of getting their kids vaccinated. Despite these efforts, we see increasing distrust and misinformation around evidence-based, safe and effective immunizations resulting in less people getting the vaccinations that could help keep communities safe from many preventable diseases.

Family physicians are alarmed by the declining vaccination rates in our state and the potential impact on the health of our kids and communities. Senate file 610 is an important step to address this. We look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues and are appreciative of our shared commitment to the health of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Bob Jeske, MD
President, MAFP