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March 1st, 2020

Transportation Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN, 55155

Dear Chair Hornstein and Members of the Transportation Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Twin Cities Medical Society, an organization that represents approximately 4,500 physicians and medical students who live and work in the seven-county metropolitan area. Our members see the devastating impact tobacco has on Minnesota's communities firsthand, and TCMS strongly supports HF3072, the bill to prohibit tobacco use in vehicles while minors are present.

Secondhand smoke and tobacco exposure pose significant health risks to anyone who is exposed to it, and young children and minors are especially vulnerable. There is absolutely no level of secondhand smoke that is safe or risk-free, and young people deserve to be free of the harms associated with secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is linked to adverse health outcomes among children such as more frequent and severe asthma attacks, respiratory and ear infections, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Given that research shows that over 23 million children in the U.S. have been exposed to secondhand smoke, HF3072 is key in helping to prevent serious health issues in this population¹.

Twin Cities Medical Society stand behind this bill. Thank you for considering this important policy in your committee on Tuesday, and we hope that the committee will support HF3072.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Greiner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ryan Greiner, MD
President of the Twin Cities Medical Society

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Exposure to Secondhand Smoke Among Nonsmokers — United States, 1988-2014. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. December 7, 2018; 67(48):1342-6.