



March 4, 2021

RE: HF 1793 - Enhanced asthma care services benefit

Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA), I am writing to express support for HF 1793. This proposal provides Medical Assistance coverage for in-home visits for children with asthma, coverage of products that reduce asthma triggers, and referral to follow-up educational services. Asthma greatly impacts Minnesota's kids, with 1 in 14 diagnosed with asthma.¹ This bill provides solutions to help reduce the impacts of asthma on Minnesota families.

According to the National Asthma Control Program at the CDC, in 2014, asthma cost Minnesota an estimated \$669.3 million in medical expenditures and lost workdays for parents. Investing in this policy pays off. Improving asthma management can save up to 25% of asthma-related costs.²

Asthma is also one of the leading causes of school absences; 35% of Minnesota children with asthma reported having missed one or more school days per year due to asthma.³ Minnesota children living in low-income communities are more likely than children living in higher-income communities to have been hospitalized for asthma⁴ and American Indian and African American students are more likely to be diagnosed with asthma.⁵

Thank you for your attention to the impacts of asthma on Minnesota's young people. We look forward to continued partnership with you on this topic.

Sincerely,

Kari Oldfield, Executive Director
Local Public Health Association of MN

About the Local Public Health Association of Minnesota

The Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) is a voluntary, non-profit organization that works to achieve a strong local public health system through leadership and collective advocacy on behalf of Minnesota's county, city and tribal local public health departments. The Association represents more than 230 public health directors, supervisors and community health services administrators throughout the state. LPHA is an affiliate of the Association of Minnesota Counties.



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¹ Minnesota Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016

² Hoppin P, Jacobs M and Stillman L "Investing in Best Practices for Asthma: A Business Case" Asthma Regional Council, Aug. 2010.

³ Minnesota Asthma Callback Survey, 2015.

⁴ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), Center for Delivery, Organization, and Markets, Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project (HCUP) State Inpatient Databases (SID), 2015, and AHRQ Quality Indicators, version 4.4.

⁵ Based on age-adjusted rates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics, Compressed Mortality File on CDC WONDER Online Database, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/>, 2008-2017