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Twin Cities Medical Society is dedicated to creating a healthy, equitable, and thriving state by engaging physicians and medical students in community-driven public health initiatives.

March 7th, 2022

Re: HF3862, a bill to distribute COVID tests and protective face masks

Dear Chair Freiberg and Committee Members,

I am writing on behalf of Twin Cities Medical Society (TCMS). TCMS is an organization that represents physicians and medical students living and working in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, and throughout the state. I am writing in support of bill HF3682, which would establish a program to distribute antigen COVID tests and KN95 masks.

As physicians, my colleagues and I know all too well the threat that COVID poses to Minnesotans of all ages. While vaccines are an important tool in preventing and lessening the harmful impacts of COVID, other mitigation tools are necessary. TCMS wholeheartedly supports this proposed policy, which will not only get these tools into the hands of Minnesotans, but also make masks and tests more accessible by distributing them through various community sites. Ensuring that all Minnesotans have access to these tools is crucial.

Though COVID cases and hospitalizations are currently dropping, we need to be prepared for another surge of cases, as well as able to take precautions in the meantime—because cases will not drop to zero. This bill is a straightforward proposal that will help Minnesotans. Thank you for hearing this bill, and I hope you will support it and vote yes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zeke McKinney", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Zeke McKinney, MD, MHI, MPH
Board President, Twin Cities Medical Society