



MINNESOTA PUBLIC
HEALTH ASSOCIATION

www.mpha.net

March 12, 2021

We are writing today in support of HF2113 to increase opportunities for equitable COVID 19 vaccine access. The Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA), a professional association of public health workers, health care providers, advocates and students, is dedicated to the health of all people who live in Minnesota.

MPHA is acutely aware of the significant and longstanding disparities in health outcomes among African Americans, American Indians and other populations of color in Minnesota and elsewhere. These disparities are an indication of deep systemic inequities that exist to prevent some communities from thriving and achieving optimal health. These inequities and health disparities are evidenced in health outcomes, and most recently seen in the higher rates of illness and death in our American Indian and populations of color due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

To date, the Minnesota Department of Health has moved swiftly to vaccinate community members quickly. However, a focus on efficiency has resulted in disproportionate distribution of the vaccine. Data released by the Department of Health on 2/28/21 confirmed that white Minnesotans are [receiving vaccine](#) at higher proportions than populations of color. HF2113 provides the structure necessary to assure equal access to vaccines for African Americans, American Indians, and other populations of color, and those who are at highest risk for COVID-19.

In July 2021, MPHA called on the Governor to declare [racism a public health crisis](#) in Minnesota. HF2113 will advance the anti-racist work we championed in that letter.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,

MPHA Governing Council