



Good morning Chair Rosen and Committee members.

My name is Mateo Frumholtz and I work at the Minnesota Department of Health. Thank you for considering my testimony today in opposition of SF3.

Over the past year, I have heard leaders all over the state champion frontline essential workers. My job during COVID has been to ensure these employees and businesses remain operational throughout the pandemic. We've worked with meatpacking plants in the southwest, dairy farms in greater Minnesota, and miners on the Iron Range – all to make sure they can stay in work while limiting COVID spread.

More often than not, these facilities have relied on MDH's resources, information, and engagement to ensure their employees have all the tools they need to be able to work safer, and therefore remain operational. My job has been to be the conduit between many community members and organizations – to take the real-life experience of frontline workers and ensure that informed decisions are being made at the Department of Health.

Am I part of your 5% budget cut?

Or maybe it's my colleague who still works hard to ensure patients have access to Tuberculosis medications after spending hours on the public hotline answering Minnesotans' questions about COVID? Or maybe it's some of our public health nurses that ensure children with elevated blood lead levels are being properly followed up with having just finished another shift of case investigation and contact tracing?

What 5% of your constituent's health are you willing to cut? What 5% of your constituents do not get access to health information or resources?

Voting for this bill will unequivocally mean that during a public health crisis, you chose to gut the agencies responsible for the State's response, rather than investing in them even more. There is no 5% to cut.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mateo Frumholtz