



February 24, 2025

Chair Torkelson and Members of the Ways & Means Committee,

I am writing to express our strong support for House File 3, a bill that takes significant steps to strengthen legislative oversight and promote sound fiscal and management practices across public agencies. By advancing accountability, transparency, and the responsible stewardship of public resources, this bill reflects the principles that are fundamental to good governance and earning the trust of Minnesotans.

At its core, HF 3 addresses a critical need: ensuring that the legislature, as representatives of the people, has the information necessary to monitor the performance of state agencies via structured reporting and follow up on the Office of the Legislative Auditor's recommendations. Important funding and policy decisions should be made based on an agency's performance and addressal of deficiencies. Oversight and responsibility are common sense.

The bill's focus on annual reporting and public hearings demonstrates a commitment to transparency: empowering legislators to craft targeted solutions and receive crucial information in a clear and timely manner. Furthermore, this bill reaffirms the dignity of Minnesotans by prioritizing their right to know how public resources are managed, particularly by unelected entities such as state agencies. The requirement for agencies to explain unimplemented recommendations ensures that they engage with the public and legislature in a manner consistent with the principles of accountability, transparency, and respect.

While some may express concerns about the additional scrutiny or administrative burden, accountability should not be viewed as adversarial. Instead, it is a constructive process that enables agencies to identify barriers and collaborate with legislators to develop solutions. By addressing internal control issues and fiscal challenges proactively, HF 3 creates the conditions for long-term success and sustainability in public governance.

This bill is not just a technical adjustment—it is a principled approach to ensuring that public agencies uphold their mission of serving the people. It provides a clear pathway for identifying and addressing challenges, enabling the government to operate more effectively while earning the public's trust and protecting precious tax dollars.

I respectfully urge this committee to support HF 3 and recommend its swift passage. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to advancing accountability and transparency for the benefit of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

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