

SENATOR MICHELLE BENSON
SENATE DISTRICT 31
Deputy Majority Leader
Chair, Health & Human Services Finance & Policy



Senate

State of Minnesota

August 19, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

Deputy Commissioner Claire Wilson
Minnesota Department of Human Services
540 Cedar Street
St Paul, MN 55155

Deputy Commissioner Wilson:

During the August 13th joint Senate Health and Human Services, and Human Services Reform Committee hearing, I as chair, stated that we would be following up with requested testifiers to seek answers to questions we believe were not sufficiently answered in our hearing. We ask that you please respond to each question, in writing, no later than close of business on Friday, August 23rd.

1. Was there a specific event or an accumulation of events that motivated you to submit a letter of resignation? What was/were those events? And to whom did you submit the letter?
2. What were your specific concerns about the direction of the department?
3. Did you ever have a conversation with Commissioner Lourey about your concern about the direction of the department? And how were your concerns received?
4. Did you ever have a conversation with Governor Walz or his staff about your concerns with the direction of the department? If so, who did you speak with? And how were your concerns received?
5. Do you believe that Commissioner Lourey's vision for the agency differed from Governor Walz's vision? If so, what were the differences?
6. Why did you decide to return to the department? Did anyone specifically ask you to return? If so, who?

If any answer to the previous questions contains information you don't believe you can legally provide to us, we ask that that information be sent to the Office of the Legislative Auditor for review of confidentiality, and that you include a citation of what specific statute or rule you believe prevents you from sharing that information in your response to us.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Benson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Senator Michelle Benson