

**SENATOR KARIN HOUSLEY**

Senate District 39

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**Senate**

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State of Minnesota

February 28, 2021

Honorable Governor Tim Walz

Office of the Governor

130 State Capitol

75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

As members of the Minnesota Senate, we ask that you immediately remove the invasive questions on your newly released Vaccine Connector at [vaccineconnector.mn.gov](https://vaccineconnector.mn.gov). Since the Vaccine Connector has been live over the past week, we have received countless complaints from Minnesota seniors and many others around the state that are outraged, scared, and confused on why it is necessary for the government to collect extensive and very personal information on them to simply complete a sign up for receiving future information to coordinate a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. Many have decided to not sign up through the Vaccine Connector even if it may push them back in line to receive a vaccine.

Questions pertaining to a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, emotional, physical, or mental condition or whether the applicant has a job or is overweight are all asked through the website. We do not believe any of this information is needed to get an appointment for the vaccine and the data should not be harvested by the government. Keep it simple.

In other states, vaccine distributors are simply asking for name, address, phone, email, age and insurance information. The federal government in their programs within Minnesota (Veterans Affairs, Indian Health Services, federal pharmacy program for seniors) are not asking this information. In addition, the state is not asking this information from health care providers, teachers, childcare workers, and state employees who are able to directly schedule appointments through their employers.

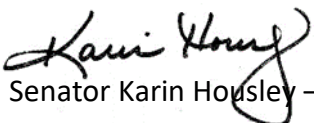
But the Minnesota Department of Health Vaccine Connector is asking the questions below, despite the request from the Senate Aging & Long-Term Care Committee Chair asking the Department of Health Commissioner to take them down on February 24, 2021.

- How would you describe your gender? Male, Female, Transgender, or Other
- How would you describe your sexual orientation? Straight, Gay or Lesbian, Bisexual, I Don't Know, Something Else.
- Do you have a physical, mental, or emotional condition, making it very difficult to concentrate, remember, or make decisions?
- Do you have difficulty dressing or bathing?
- Do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping, because of physical, mental, or emotional condition?
- Do you live in a single-family home or an apartment?
- What is your employer's name? What is your job title?
- Do you smoke or vape?
- Are you obese?

The Vaccine Connector questionnaire coerces individuals to fill out answers. Though there is an option to respond, "Prefer Not to Answer," these questions are **required** to be answered before you can make an appointment. This is private information, that should only be shared between a patient and doctor. The Vaccine Connector says that *"the information gathered will be shared with state agencies involved in vaccine planning, scheduling, and administration. Others who may have access to your information are local public health agencies, health care providers, and other persons or entities involved in COVID-19 vaccine planning, scheduling, or administration, as well as persons or entities authorized by law."*

**We ask that you remove the invasive questions and dispose of the data that has been obtained immediately.**

Sincerely,

  
Senator Karin Housley – District 39

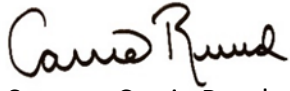
  
Senator Michelle Benson – District 31

  
Senator Andrew Mathews – District 15

  
Senator Mark Koran – District 32

  
Senator Rich Draheim – District 20

  
Senator Warren Limmer – District 34



Senator Carrie Ruud – District 10



Senator Paul Gazelka – District 9



Senator Eric Pratt – District 55



Senator David Tomassoni – District 6



Senator Jeff Howe - District 13



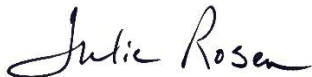
Senator Bruce Anderson – District 29



Senator John Hoffman – District 36



Senator Gene Dornink – District 27



Senator Julie Rosen - District 23



Senator Justin Eichorn – District 5



Senator Zach Duckworth – District 58



Senator Jason Rarick – District 11



Senator Andrew Lang – District 17



Senator Thomas M. Bakk – District 3



Senator Jim Abeler – District 35



Senator Gary Dahms – District 16



Senator Julia Coleman – District 47



Senator Roger Chamberlain – District 38



Senator Bill Weber – District 22



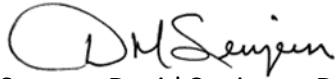
Senator Carla Nelson – District 26



Senator Michael Goggin – District 21



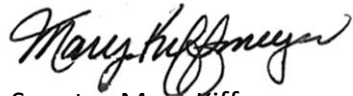
Senator Mark Johnson – District 1



Senator David Senjem – District 25



Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen - District 8



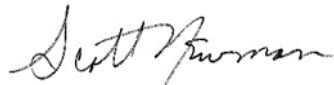
Senator Mary Kiffmeyer – District 30



Senator Paul Utke – District 2



Senator Torrey Westrom – District 12



Senator Scott Newman – District 18



Senator John Jasinski – District 24