

March 8, 2018

Representative Nick Zerwas
433 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55115

Dear Representative Zerwas:

On behalf of Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, thank you for your leadership to work to modernize Minnesota's Health Records Act.

Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric provider. Last year, we treated more than 135,000 children from every county in the state. We also treated children from almost 60 percent of the counties in the surrounding states.

As a state and regional resource, it is critical that we have an ability to share patient information across state lines and between health care providers in order to provide high-quality, cost-efficient and time-sensitive care. Children's also has important partnerships with schools to coordinate care for medically complex kids and those with chronic asthma. Our ability to communicate and share information between school nurses and our clinicians is fundamental in our success.

Current law requires additional consents and processes in order to provide a basic level care. In addition to burdensome administrative time and resources, it places undue stress on our families.

Below are a few examples where our current system presents challenges. For example:

- Difficulty obtaining records from specialist visits make it challenging to know a complete medical history (medications, labs, plans of care). This often results in unneeded or duplicate services because of no availability of records.
- School nurses struggle to obtain physician orders, including Asthma Action Care plans from our clinics. Provider and parent signed plans are necessary for the school nurse to administer the child's inhalers and medications at schools. School nurses are unable to provide care if they cannot reach a parent to sign a release.
- Communication with parents has changed over time. Numerous families have requested we text message them due to lack of a landline or inability to respond to calls while at work. In order to do this, we would need additional consents for every message we send on appointments, lab results, medications, and change of care plans.

We take our mission at Children's to be every family's essential partner in raising healthier children seriously. Yet changes in health care delivery, parent expectations, and an interest in expanding partnerships with schools and communities make our ability to do that efficiently difficult within our current system. A more streamlined and aligned federal approach would help relieve onerous

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administrative burdens, decrease the cost of care, and provide a better experience for our patients and families. We look forward to working with you further on this very important legislation.

Sincerely,



Trevor Sawallish

Senior Vice President of Clinical Operations,
Chief Operating Officer
Children's Minnesota