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March 1, 2023

HF1752/SF2067 – Prescription drug benefits carve-out

The Minnesota Association of County Health Plans (MACHP) is a non-profit association representing the state's three county owned and operated County-Based Purchasing (CBP) plans. For more than 40 years, CBP plans have been assuring access to quality, cost-effective care for people enrolled in Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP). CBP plans currently serve more than 107,000 MHCP enrollees in 33 counties. Minnesota law, passed in 1997 on a bi-partisan basis (256B.692, 256B.694), gives counties special authority to choose and adopt CBP.

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

County-Based Purchasing (CBP) plans understand and appreciate the need for access to affordable prescription medications in caring for the people we serve. **HF1752/SF2067 eliminates our ability to ensure optimal continuity of care** and coordination of benefits and services across the spectrum of covered services in the critical area of prescription medications.

Carve-outs like this **dis-integrate the benefits set and coordination of care**, fragmenting them across multiple different administrators. This seriously impairs quality and coordination of care, jeopardizing health outcomes for public programs enrollees who need and deserve these services. **We cannot overstate the critical importance of holistic care for ensuring optimal health, and HF1752/SF2067 takes us backwards.**

We are also concerned **HF1752/SF2067 is being heard and considered with no fiscal note**, so we have no official assessment of the price tag. Also, because of the massive scope and cost of the prescription drug benefit, due diligence would dictate that **the Legislature pursue an Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) study of this proposal** to determine the feasibility, efficacy and overall impact before acting on or implementing such a huge change.

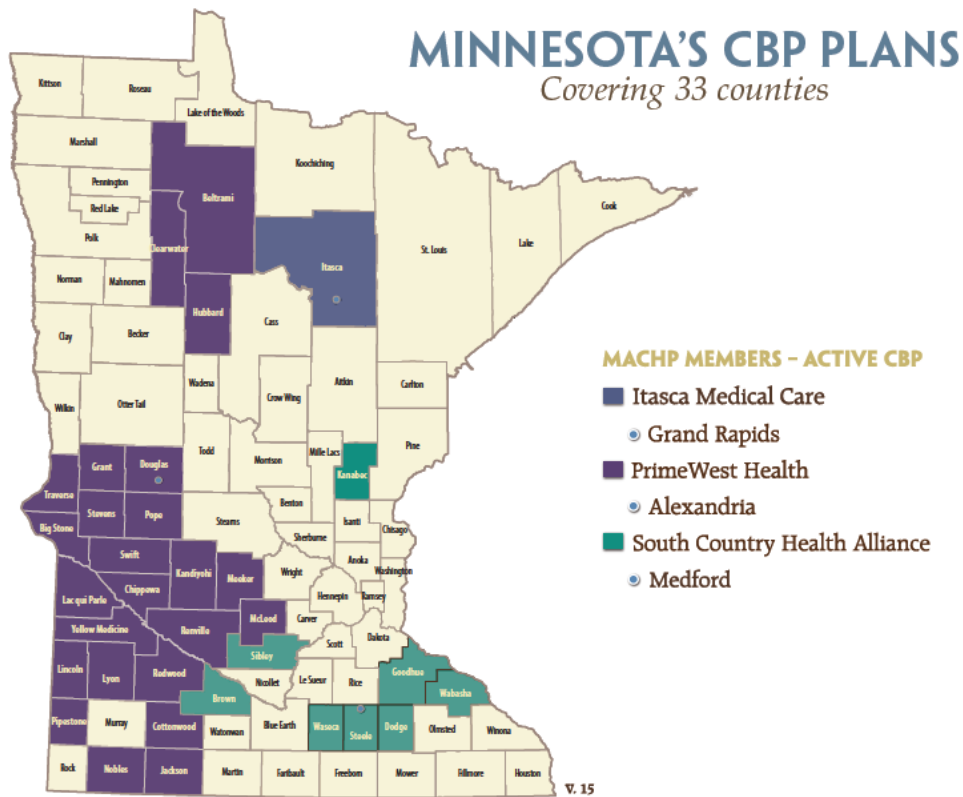
As plans owned and operated by the 33 counties we serve, with profound regard for the quality of care and outcomes for our members, **we strongly oppose HF1752/SF2067** which would eliminate our care delivery and management of critical prescription drug benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important matter. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Gottwalt | Executive Director | 952-923-5265 | steve@machp.org

Cc: MACHP Board – Itasca Medical Care; PrimeWest Health; South Country Health Alliance
Julie Ring – Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Executive Director



Itasca Medical Care – Owned and governed by **Itasca County**. Serves more than **10,700** MHCP enrollees.
PrimeWest Health – Owned and governed by **24 counties**. Serves more than **63,600** MHCP enrollees.
South Country Health Alliance – Owned and governed by **8 counties**. Serves more than **32,900** MHCP enrollees.