

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

March 17, 2021

Elizabeth Richter  
Acting Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
200 Independence Avenue  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Acting Administrator Richter:

We write to respectfully request your consideration of Minnesota's recent request to review the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) September 2017 decision to partially deny the state's Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver regarding MinnesotaCare, the state's Basic Health Program (BHP).

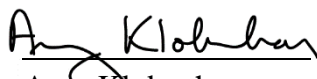
Minnesota has long been a national leader in health care and medical innovation and is one of only two states that has established a BHP. MinnesotaCare served 75,000 Minnesotans on average during 2019 and is a vital source of health coverage for people who may not otherwise have access to health insurance.

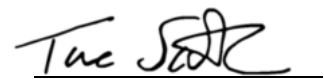
However, as the February 5 letter from Minnesota Department of Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead and Minnesota Department of Commerce Commissioner Grace Arnold indicates, CMS' decision to only partially approve the state's 1332 waiver in 2017 has resulted in Minnesota receiving significantly less annual federal pass-through funding than was previously expected. According to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, between 2018 and 2020, the state of Minnesota has lost over \$49 million in federal funding due to the partial denial of the waiver.<sup>1</sup>

We know that access to quality health care is more important than ever in light of the coronavirus pandemic—which has infected hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans and disrupted access to employer-based health coverage. On behalf of our constituents, we urge you to consider the state of Minnesota's request to reassess the decision made in 2017 regarding partial denial of its waiver application as soon as possible.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critically important matter.

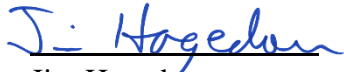
Sincerely,

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

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<sup>1</sup> Estimates provided by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.



Jim Hagedorn  
Member of Congress



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



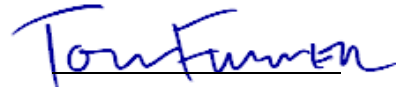
Dean Phillips  
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress