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April 6, 2021

## HF2128 DE1 – Proposed Benefits Carve-outs (Dental, Pharmacy, NEMT)

Dear House Health Finance and Policy Committee Members:

The Minnesota Association of County Health Plans (MACHP), representing Minnesota's three County-Based Purchasing (CBP) plans, is **deeply concerned about the carve-outs of important PMAP benefits, including Dental, Pharmacy and Nonemergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)** as proposed in the DE1 Amendment. We have met directly with Representatives Liebling and Schultz to express our concerns and answer their questions. CBP plans are owned and operated by Minnesota counties partnering with DHS to serve people in need. As local units of government, their finances are absolutely transparent. Furthermore, the local accountability and responsiveness of these counties is critical to achieving dependable access to quality care for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) enrollees.

For more than 40 years, and particularly since they were authorized by the Minnesota Legislature in 1997, Minnesota's CBP plans have played a vital role in delivering dependable access to high quality, cost-effective health care for hundreds of thousands of MHCP enrollees. There are currently 22 Minnesota counties participating in CBP, and another 11 have joined PrimeWest Health to begin delivering care in 2023. These counties are part of the solution to achieving better health, fuller life and cost savings for people in need across Minnesota. **Carving-out benefits fragments care coordination, removes local responsiveness and accountability, and pulls-back resources critical to strengthening health care at the local level.**

Representatives Liebling and Schultz have expressed strong support for CBP plans and the good work they do, and we appreciate their efforts to seek sustainable solutions. Minnesota's CBP plans and the counties that own and operate them prefer partnering with DHS to address access, care and cost concerns. Benefits carve-outs are not the answer, and the failures of other states that have tried them should serve as a caution.

**For these reasons, we cannot support the benefits carve-outs contained in the DE1 Amendment to HF2158.** Thank you for your commitment to improving care for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely yours,

Steve Gottwalt

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Cc: Representative Tina Liebling  
 Representative Jennifer Schultz  
 Representative Joe Schomacker  
 Senator Michelle Benson  
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