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March 1, 2023

Representative Tina Liebling
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 5515

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Council of Health Plans represents Minnesota's nonprofit health plans, and importantly, five of the managed care organizations which together serve 84 percent of Minnesota's public program enrollees. As such, we understand the challenge presented by resuming eligibility checks after a three-year pause and the significant impact redeterminations will have on our members. We have been working diligently with DHS, MNsure, county and tribal agencies, and other stakeholders for nearly two years to plan for the transition from the continuous coverage mandate. We are all deeply committed to ensuring that no one faces an avoidable gap in coverage during this time period, however, additional resources will be critical to ensuring we are as prepared as possible to meet Minnesotans' needs over the next year. For this reason, we fully support the provisions included in House File 2286 and strongly recommend that they are passed expeditiously. We are encouraged that this legislation does the following:

Improving the Member Experience

We strongly support the system modernization requests that will provide a simpler, more efficient, more intuitive, and more transparent experience for public program enrollees in the future. We also support the state cost sharing reductions to help Minnesotans transitioning to commercial coverage better afford care.

Connecting Minnesotans to Trusted Sources of Help

We support inclusion of dedicated funding for navigators, counties, and other agencies. We recognize that these trusted sources of help will be critical in assisting Minnesotans through the redetermination process. These organizations are uniquely positioned to connect directly with their communities across the state and are the first line of defense in assuring Minnesotans maintain access to coverage.

Continuous Coverage for Children - Advancing Health Equity

We support the continuous coverage provisions that will help reduce churn and will ensure children have consistent access to health care. Importantly, while 4 in 10 Minnesota kids are on Medicaid, 64% of Black Minnesotan children are covered by Minnesota Health Care Programs so we know from a health equity perspective that this policy change will be especially impactful for communities of color.

While the upcoming unwinding period will certainly present some challenges, it is important to note that in all cases, Minnesota's health plans, DHS and Minnesota counties and tribes are working together to make sure that Minnesotans stay covered and continue to have access to affordable and timely care. We urge members to support this bill and to expedite passage to maximize the impact of these additional resources. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucas Nesse".

Lucas Nesse
President and CEO