



February 27, 2023

**RE: Comments on HF2286**

Dear Representative Noor and Members of the Committee;

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for portions of your bill to transition Minnesota's Health Care Programs (MHCP) from the Public Health Emergency (PHE). The Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC) represents the interests of the state's 17 federally qualified health centers (FQHCS), or Community Health Centers (CHCs), as they are commonly known.

Nearly 45% of FQHC patients are enrolled in either Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare - roughly 71,000 individuals. FQHCs are vital to access points for MA and MinnesotaCare enrollees in rural and urban areas of the state. MA and MinnesotaCare patients access primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care services at FQHCs.

Another component of the FQHC delivery model is the "enabling services" that each FQHC provides, per federal law. These services include care coordination, patient education, transportation, and interpretation services. A significant component of our enabling services is assisting patients in determining their eligibility for health insurance - primarily in MA or MinnesotaCare and through MNsure.

Given the prominent role that MA and MinnesotaCare have for our patients, MNACHC strongly supports:

- Continuous eligibility for MA for children ages six to 21 for 12 months; and
- Continuous eligibility for MA for children under six years of age.

MNACHC is interested in learning more about the grants appropriated to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for outreach activities. Given the five-decades-long relationship FQHCs have with communities, we encourage that these funds are deployed to community-based organizations with significant MHCP populations facing redeterminations.

Again, MNACHC thanks you for your efforts regarding ensuring Minnesotans have access to health care coverage. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Respectfully submitted,

*Rochelle Westlund*

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