From: oak7@centurylink.net
To: Patrick McQuillan
Subject: Support for HF 3363, the Medical Assistance opt out bill
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Testimony in support of HF 3363

The state of Minnesota should allow all Medical Assistance patients, not just some, an equal opportunity to choose their preferred doctors and treatments without being forced into managed care plans, as is currently done. Granting all Medical Assistance patients the freedom to opt out of managed care supervision should no longer be a privilege reserved for a few. It should be available to all Medical Assistance patients and applicants. This opt out bill gives Medical Assistance patients the freedom to leave the limited choice of doctors and treatments provided in a managed care plan if they so choose. It also provides a means to reduce racial and ethnic disparities some Medical Assistance patients face with managed care plans which do not allow them to choose culturally appropriate care. Enforcing a two-tier system without an opt out provision is unethical and discriminatory. HF 3363 provides an expansion of choice in the medical marketplace. It was inquiries by my citizen activist group, Health Policy Advocates, asking Senator Abeler and Representative Liebling about operations of Medical Assistance in our state which resulted in the introduction of this bill, and Health Policy Advocates is pleased it is being heard today. We recommend enactment of HF 3363.

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