

April 28, 2023

Re: MinnesotaCare Public Option in the Health Omnibus bill

Chair Wiklund, Chair Liebling, and members of the SF2995 Conference Committee,

We strongly support establishing a MinnesotaCare Public Option (HF96, SF49), and the elements included in the House and Senate omnibus bills. Across race, income, and zip code every person deserves access to healthcare. We know that our families, economy, and local communities are stronger when we all have access to truly affordable, high-quality healthcare that supports our health and wellbeing.

**That's why we support a MinnesotaCare Public Option, to allow more Minnesotans to access the affordable, comprehensive healthcare they need.**

Established in 1992 through bipartisan leadership, MinnesotaCare is affordable and high-quality healthcare that we fund together through state, federal, and enrollee contributions.

We support the inclusion of the following elements in the final bill:

- **Expand access to affordable healthcare** by allowing Minnesotans struggling to afford high deductible plans on the individual market to buy-in to MinnesotaCare through a public option. (Senate Article 16, House Article 2)
- **Expand eligibility** to include undocumented Minnesotans who are currently excluded from Minnesota Health Care Programs. We support the House position to include adults and children. (House Article 2, Section 23)
- **Offer temporary assistance** to help Minnesotans afford healthcare while the public option is being implemented. (House Article 2, Section 9)

**We believe that healthcare should be people-centered, include everyone, and not be dependent on employment.** A vast majority of Minnesotans agree, with 91 percent saying that they believe the government should expand insurance options so that everyone can afford quality care (Healthcare Value Hub Survey, Nov. 2020).

**We urge you to support truly affordable, high-quality healthcare for every Minnesotan. Please include these provisions in the final bill.**

Signed,  
(over for signatures)

AARP

AFSCME Council 65

AFSCME Council 5

American Diabetes Association

Black Immigrant Collective  
Children's Defense Fund Minnesota  
Committee to Protect Health Care  
CURE  
East Central Labor Council  
Education Minnesota  
Episcopal Church in Minnesota  
Faith in Minnesota  
Health Access MN  
Immigrant Welcoming Working Group,  
Plymouth Congregational  
Church, Minneapolis  
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration  
(ICOM)  
ISAIAH  
Land Stewardship Project  
Main Street Alliance  
Minneapolis Regional Labor  
Federation  
Minnesota Budget Project  
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits  
Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs  
(MCLA)  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Minnesota Farmers Union  
North East Area Labor Council  
OutFront Minnesota  
Placemaker Hospitality  
Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD  
Action Fund  
Rural Organizing Project of ISAIAH  
MN  
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa  
SEIU Minnesota State Council  
Springboard for the Arts  
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor  
Council, AFL-CIO  
TakeAction Minnesota  
Unidos MN  
Voices for Racial Justice  
West Area Labor Council