



Support Continuous Medicaid Eligibility for Children

Medicaid “churn” - people being repeatedly dropped off of Medical Assistance (MA) due to problems with redetermination or small eligibility changes, only to re-enroll months later – is a chronic problem that causes costly disruptions in access to care for Minnesota children and adults and the providers and state agencies that serve them.

We support the proposal (House Article 3 Section 18) to provide children who enroll in Medicaid with 12 months of continuous eligibility. This would mean that individuals aged 20 or younger who are determined eligible for MA would be eligible for a full twelve months, without the threat of losing coverage due to changes such as small fluctuations in income or issues with periodic data matching. 34 states already offer this for children, and at least two states offer it for all enrollees through a demonstration project (MT and NY).

Continuous eligibility protects children from being dropped from coverage due to system or parental error, and encourages parental confidence in scheduling and keeping medical, dental, and mental health appointments with trusted providers. Continuous eligibility is also a tool to reduce health disparities. The recent DHS report “Building Racial Equity into the Walls of Minnesota Medicaid” recommends continuous eligibility for 72 months up to age 6 and 24 months for older enrollees.

We encourage you to adopt this language into the final bill.