



Legal Services Advocacy Project  
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid  
2324 University Avenue, Suite 101  
St. Paul, MN 55114

January 25, 2021

The Honorable Tina Liebling  
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Joe Schomacker  
Republican Lead, Health Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
583 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John Huot  
Vice Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
209 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Jennifer Schultz  
Chair, Human Services Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
473 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 11 – Minnesota Care Eligibility

Dear Chair Liebling, Vice Chair Huot, Republican Lead Schomacker, and Chair Schultz:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) provides legislative and administrative policy advocacy on behalf of the six regional Legal Aid programs in Minnesota that provide free civil legal services for low-income clients, all elder Minnesotans, and all Minnesotans with disabilities statewide. LSAP writes to express its strong support for HF 11.

A number of provisions of HF 11 would offer significant help to Legal Aid's clients and all low-income Minnesotans in obtaining and affording essential health care. During the COVID-19 pandemic the gaps in coverage and affordability issues have negatively impacted BIPOC communities who are disproportionately suffering from the impact of the virus.

In particular, the expansion of eligibility for MinnesotaCare would reduce uncompensated care for providers and minimize the need for significantly more expensive emergency care for those without health insurance. In addition, among other things, the bill would also address what is called "the family glitch" that makes one family member ineligible for MinnesotaCare or subsidized coverage because they have access to unaffordable employer coverage through another family member.

We urge the committee to pass this bill that would significantly benefit and improve health outcomes for Legal Aid clients who, without enactment of this bill, would be without vital health insurance coverage. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood  
Supervising Attorney