From: John Kolstad
To: Patrick McQuillan
Subject: RE: HF 3363 Medicaid Option of Choice bill
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Testimony in support of HF 3363

The state of Minnesota already allows The Department of Human Services to put Medical Assistance (MA) patients with serious health problems into Fee For Service. There are a significant number of other patients who would prefer an equal opportunity to choose their preferred doctors and treatments. Why should the Private Manage Care Organizations get to choose the healthier patients and leave the rest for DHS to manage. Granting all MA patients, the opportunity to decide which option they prefer or works best for them culturally and for other needs is the American and Minnesota way. It should be available to all Medical Assistance patients and applicants. This bill, HF 3363, gives MA patients the freedom of choice of facility, doctors, treatments, and care plan. This also means reduce racial and ethnic disparities that some Medical Assistance patients face with managed care plans. MCOs do not allow them to choose culturally appropriate care. This is a two-tier system without an any choice for provision by the patient and that is unethical and discriminatory. HF 3363 provides an expansion of choice in the medical marketplace. I've done some studying of Health Care Policy as a businessman over the past 30 years and I am confident that the Fee For Service Option will save us Tax Payers money. The Private Manage Care Operations (MCOs) have claimed for years that they have or will save the State money, but since there has never been an Audit of the DHS Medicaid Program in 30 years, using Generally Accepted Government Accounting Practices, (required annually by State and Federal Law) there is no way anyone can claim that MCOs save a penny and I suspect they cost us Tax Payers more. In addition to business organizations I am a member of a citizen activist group, Health Policy Advocates. We are pleased this bill is being heard today and our group strongly recommends the enactment of HF 3363.

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