



March 1, 2022

Re: Support for HF 3717

Dear Chair Stephenson and members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee:

The undersigned organizations represent thousands of individuals facing serious, acute and chronic health conditions in Minnesota. Our organizations have a unique perspective on what patients need to prevent disease, cure illness and manage chronic health conditions. We strive to put our diversity, knowledge, and expertise to use as a resource regarding any decisions affecting state health insurance marketplaces and the patients that they serve.

Our organizations support HF 3717, legislation to continue reinsurance through the 2023 benefit year. We are committed to ensuring that any changes to the healthcare system achieve coverage that is adequate, affordable and accessible for patients. A strong, robust marketplace is essential for people with serious, acute and chronic health conditions to access comprehensive coverage that includes all of the treatments and services that they need to stay healthy at an affordable cost.

Reinsurance is an important tool to help stabilize health insurance markets. Reinsurance programs help insurance companies cover the claims of very high cost enrollees, which in turn keeps premiums affordable for other individuals buying insurance on the individual market. Reinsurance programs have been used to stabilize premiums in a number of healthcare programs, such as Medicare Part D. In 2020, Minnesota saw a 21.3 percent reduction in unsubsidized premium rates because of reinsurance.¹

Continued funding for the reinsurance program will help to significantly reduce premiums and increase the number of individuals obtaining health insurance through the individual market. This would help patients with pre-existing conditions obtain affordable, comprehensive coverage.

On behalf of our organizations, we ask you to support HF 3717. For more information, please contact Emily Myatt, Minnesota Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, at emily.myatt@cancer.org.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
Arthritis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Minnesota Breast Cancer Coalition
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Rainbow Health

¹ Justin Giovannelli et al., The Benefits and Limitations of State-Run Individual Market Reinsurance (Commonwealth Fund, Nov. 2020). <https://doi.org/10.26099/q2z8-nv33>