



March 5, 2024

Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee:

On behalf of UCare, I am happy to support HF 3639/SF 3969, which will instruct the Department of Human Services to apply for a section 1115 demonstration waiver to provide nutrition support as a covered service under Medical Assistance to individuals with a documented need for nutrition supports whose needs are not being met by other food support programs.

At UCare, we have long recognized the impact that access to nutrition has on health. Because of this, our Prepaid Medical Assistance Plans (PMAP) provide grocery discounts on pre-qualified health foods, along with providing food access referrals to connect our enrollees with local food resources through Second Harvest Heartland. In addition, the UCare Foundation has provided grants to the Twin Cities Mobile Market, a Food Group program bringing healthy, affordable fresh foods to Twin Cities neighborhoods.

HF 3639/SF 3969 will give the Department of Human Services the ability to expand access to nutrition supports and ensure more Minnesotans have access to the nutrition they need to meet their health goals. UCare is proud to support this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Ulland".

**Joel Ulland**

Vice President and Public Affairs Officer

