

February 9, 2021

To: Gov. Walz, Speaker Hortman, Leader Gazelka
Cc: Rep. Daudt, Sen. Kent
Re: **MinnesotaCare Expansion – Public Option – HF 11**

We care for each other in Minnesota, and we believe every person has inherent worth and dignity without exception. We know that our economy, families, and local communities are stronger when we all have access to truly affordable, high-quality healthcare for every Minnesotan. The COVID-19 pandemic has made this even more stark: we as a society cannot afford to leave anyone out.

That’s why we’re writing to express our strong support for HF 11, a bill to expand MinnesotaCare with a public option.

Expanding MinnesotaCare will give more Minnesotans a choice of affordable and high-quality healthcare funded through state, federal, and enrollee contributions. Under the expansion, current MinnesotaCare coverage would remain intact, but individuals currently above the federal income level for eligibility could either opt in to MinnesotaCare or continue their private market coverage.

We believe that health care should be publicly funded, include everyone, and not be dependent on employment. A vast majority of Minnesotans agree, with 91 percent saying that they believe the government should expand insurance options so that everyone can afford quality care (Healthcare Value Hub Survey, Nov. 2020).

The MinnesotaCare Public Option closes coverage gaps for undocumented immigrants. It would provide an affordable option for those currently caught in the “family glitch”—those barred from financial assistance despite unaffordable family employer coverage—and those struggling to afford high deductible plans in the individual market. It includes a public option for small employers. And it creates a path toward alternative care delivery systems that will work with providers to improve health outcomes, health equity, and access while maintaining affordability for the state and enrollees.

We urge you to support truly affordable, high-quality healthcare for every Minnesotan. Please vote to support the expansion of MinnesotaCare through the MinnesotaCare Public Option in HF 11. Thank you.

Signed,

AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65
Children’s Defense Fund - Minnesota
COPAL MN

Faith in Minnesota
Health Access MN
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration
ISIAIAH
JustUs Health
Land Stewardship Project
Main Street Alliance of Minnesota
Minneapolis Regional Retirees Council, MRLF AFL-CIO
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Doctors for Health Equity
Minnesota East Central Area Labor Council
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Immigrant Health Alliance
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Recovery Connection
Minnesota Sanctuary State Coalition
National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter
Northeast Area Labor Council
OutFront Minnesota
Physicians for Human Rights
Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD Action Fund
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
SEIU Local 284
SEIU MN State Council
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
TakeAction Minnesota
The MN Immigrant Movement
UFCW Local 1189
Unidos MN
Voices for Racial Justice
Working America