



February 14, 2022

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature:

Thank you for the opportunity to demonstrate our support for House File 11, a bill that would expand affordable health care for Minnesotans via MinnesotaCare. Our state has a history of investing in health care, healthy communities, and the well-being of Minnesotans. **House File 11 represents one more step toward ensuring all Minnesotans can get the affordable health care they need to thrive.**

House File 11 builds on Minnesota's history of pursuing the goal that all Minnesotans should be able to access the health care they need when they need it. That's good policy. House File 11 provides a new option for Minnesotans to purchase affordable, comprehensive health care and also addresses existing barriers to affordable health care in the health care market. As you know, MinnesotaCare would continue as it currently exists, with the addition of an option for individuals and families with income levels above the current eligibility cap to opt in to MinnesotaCare and pay premiums on a sliding scale. Additionally, the bill provides transitional assistance to make sure that Minnesotans can get the care they need now, and ensures that Minnesotans have options for health care coverage, regardless of their immigration status.

As a membership organization of over 2,300 nonprofit members, **the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits also supports House File 11 because it provides an additional health insurance option for small Minnesota employers** who currently often face expensive and limited coverage options. The ability to provide affordable, quality health insurance is an important way to maintain the nonprofit sector as an attractive place to work. We know that too many nonprofits, especially smaller and rural nonprofits, struggle to offer affordable health insurance to their employees – people who do essential work to strengthen our communities every day.

Improving access to health care would help address racial disparities in health outcomes and is especially important during a global pandemic. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Minnesotans are less likely to have health care coverage and have been disproportionately harmed by COVID-19. Broadening affordable coverage options could help address Minnesota's shameful racial disparities and improve health outcomes for those facing the greatest barriers.

We urge you to expand access to affordable health care by supporting House File 11. Please contact Marie Ellis (mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org) or Becca O'Donnell (rodonnell@mnbudgetproject.org) if there is any additional information we can provide.

Sincerely,

Marie Ellis
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Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Becca O'Donnell
Policy Analyst
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The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits (MCN) is an association of over 2,300 nonprofit members from every part of the state and every area of nonprofit activity. MCN works to inform, promote, connect, and strengthen individual nonprofits and the nonprofit sector.

The Minnesota Budget Project, an initiative of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, identifies and promotes public policies so that economic security is available to all Minnesotans, regardless of who they are or where they live.