

4/7/22

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

We care for each other in Minnesota. 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.

That's why we're writing to express our strong support for the portions of HF 11 included in the House Health Omnibus HF4706, to allow more Minnesotans to buy-in to MinnesotaCare. (Article 3 Sections 41-46 and 51-54)

MinnesotaCare is affordable and high-quality healthcare that we build together through state, federal, and enrollee contributions. The MinnesotaCare buy-in in this bill:

- **closes coverage gaps and increases affordability** by
 - allowing Minnesotans with incomes over 200% FPG, who are struggling to afford high deductible plans on the individual market, to buy-in to MinnesotaCare (Sec. 44)
 - including Minnesotan children under the age of 19 who are currently cut out Minnesota Health Care Programs based on immigration status (Sec. 43)
 - and allowing small businesses to offer and contribute to coverage their employees can actually afford to use (Sec. 51)
- keeps current MinnesotaCare intact and **maintains the current MNCare premiums** of \$0-\$20 for low-income enrollees. (Article 3 Sec. 46, lines 232.28-232.21) Without this action these premiums will drastically increase if the federal ARPA subsidies are not extended.
- **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. (Sec. 54)

While we are disappointed that Article 3 Section 43 differs from the HF11 proposal by leaving out undocumented adults, and we hope you will consider expanding that proposal, we are grateful for the important investments that are included. **The MinnesotaCare buy-in in this bill takes many crucial and long-awaited steps toward truly affordable, high quality healthcare for every Minnesotan. We urge your support.**

Thank you.

(over for signatures)

Sincerely,

AFSCME Council 5

Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Children's Defense Fund

Fe y Justicia MN

Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota

ISAIAH

Land Stewardship Project

Legal Services Advocacy Project

Main Street Alliance of Minnesota

Minnesota AFL-CIO

Minnesota Budget Project

Minnesota Farmers Union

Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD Action Fund

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa

TakeAction Minnesota

Unidos MN

Voices for Racial Justice