

March 28, 2019

Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building

Paul Gazelka
Majority Leader
Minnesota Senate Building, #3113

Cc: Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk and House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt, and members of the legislature

Dear Speaker Hortman, Majority Leader Gazelka, and members of the legislature,

We write to express our strong support for the proposal to repeal the sunset of the health care provider tax, included in Governor Walz's budget. The health care provider tax funds essential health care services for over one million Minnesotans and enables critical investments in the health and well-being of Minnesota's communities.

Allowing the health care provider tax to expire would create an annual revenue shortfall of \$680 million. This loss of funding would jeopardize health care access for thousands of low-income Minnesotans, threaten the stability of the health care sector and negatively impact the State budget.

We support the health care provider tax because:

- It has provided a stable source of income for the Health Care Access Fund;
- It has historically funded MinnesotaCare, and with the uncertainty at the federal level it is important we have adequate reserves in the fund to protect the program;
- It is time tested since it was enacted in 1992; and
- It has withstood legal challenges.

In the seven years since the sunset was enacted in 2011, there has been more than sufficient time for possible alternatives to the health care provider tax to be proposed, vetted, and considered. However, no reliable alternative has emerged. Consequently, critical health care services for low-income Minnesotans and innovative community health programs are imminently at risk.

With a projected loss of over \$850 million in health care provider tax revenue over the FY20-21 biennium, now is the time to act to save this critical source of health care funding. Therefore, **we collectively urge you to act this session to repeal the sunset of the provider tax and remove the cloud of uncertainty over the future of the Health Care Access Fund.**

Sincerely,
AARP MN

Accra

Advance Opportunities
AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65
Allina Health
ALS Association, MN/ND/SD Chapter
American Heart Association
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
ARRM
AspireMN
Association of Minnesota Counties
Awood Center
B.I.G. Support Group/Social Club
Behavioral Health Services-State of MN
CAIR-Minnesota
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
Catholic Health Association of Minnesota
CCRI, Inc.
Cedar Branch Developmental Achievement
Center
Children's Minnesota
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
CHOICE, Incorporated
City of Minneapolis
City of Saint Paul
Clare Housing
Community Action Duluth
Community Action Partnership of Hennepin
County
Community Involvement Programs
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)
Curt Lind
CWA MN State Council
Education Minnesota
eQuality-Pathways to Potential
Faith in Minnesota
Functional Industries, Inc.
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota
Growth & Justice
Hammer Residences
Health Access MN
Hennepin Health
Hennepin Healthcare
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Independent Management Service
Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia
Inter-County Community Council
ISAIAH
Isuroon
Ita Bel Koo DAC
Jewish Community Action
Jobs Plus Inc
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition
JustUs Health
Lake County DAC, Inc.
Lakes & Prairies Community Action
Lakes and Pines Community Action Council
Inc.
Land Stewardship Project
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Lifeworks Services
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota
Living Well Disability Services
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
Main Street Alliance Minnesota
MAPE
Mental Health Minnesota
Metropolitan Consortium of Community
Developers

Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC)
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Catholic Conference
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Doctors for Health Equity
Minnesota Elder Justice Center
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota First Provider Alliance
Minnesota Hospital Association
Minnesota National Farmers Organization
Minnesota Nurse Practitioners (MNNP)
Minnesota Nurses Association
Minnesota Oral Health Alliance
Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR)
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Safety Net Coalition
Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA)
Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council
MN Council on Disability
MN Community Action Partnership
MN350 Action
MNFAC Minnesota Families Advocates Coalition

Mount Olivet Rolling Acres
MSS
NAMI
NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota
National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Nexus Youth and Family Solutions
Norman County Developmental Activities Center
Northwest Community Action
Opportunity Partners
OutFront Minnesota
Partnership Resources, Inc.
People's Center Clinics & Services
Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund
Portico Healthnet
PossAbilities of Southern Minnesota
Prepare + Prosper
Proof Alliance (formerly MOFAS)
Residential Services of Northeastern MN, Inc.
Rise
Rock County Opportunities, Inc.
Saint Paul Federation of Educators
Sanford Health Plan
SEIU Healthcare MN
SEIU Local 26
SEIU MN State Council
State Advisory Council on Mental Health
Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health
TakeAction Minnesota
The Arc Minnesota
The Association of Minnesota Counties
The Family Partnership
The Phoenix Residence, Inc.

This Is Medicaid

UCare

UFCW 1189

Unidos MN

United Steelworkers

Upstream Arts

Voices for Racial Justice

Volunteers of America Minnesota

West Central MN Communities Action, Inc.

Working America