



Minnesota Department of Human Services
Elmer L. Andersen Building
Temporary Commissioner Shireen Gandhi
Post Office Box 64998
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0998

May 6, 2025

Dear Chairs Bierman, Backer, and Members of the House Health Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, I want to thank you for your efforts to improve access to critical health care services. Minnesota's Medicaid program is a cornerstone of the state's health care system, serving roughly one in four Minnesotans living in every region of the state. Medicaid serves as a lifeline to Greater Minnesota providers and supports public health infrastructure, hospitals, mental health centers, home care, community clinics, nursing homes, physicians, dentists, and many other health professionals.

Developing a budget this session was not an easy task. I commend you for identifying efficiencies in your proposed budget bill (HF 2435) that address the projected budget shortfall, as well as investments that will improve people's lives. I want to extend my gratitude for the inclusion of several of Governor Walz and Lieutenant Governor Flanagan's key budget priorities, including:

- **Extending access to audio-only telehealth.** This investment ensures ongoing access to mental health services as well as preventative care, especially for younger populations and people living in greater Minnesota.
- Restoring the state's ability to manage the preferred drug list by **eliminating the sunset on the Drug Formulary Committee.** The expiration of the drug formulary committee would result in the loss of supplemental pharmacy rebates. Eliminating the sunset is expected to allow the state to continue claiming the full value of supplemental pharmacy rebates in fiscal years 2028 and 2029.
- Authorizing **uniform administration of Non-emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT).** The current structure of NEMT can make it difficult for members to access transportation services. A uniform program will help reduce administrative complexity and improve enrollees' access to health care services.

We look forward to continued collaboration on containing pharmaceutical costs by leveraging increased transparency and administrative efficiencies. Our team will continue to analyze the bill and provide feedback and technical assistance. Thank you again for your dedication to supporting access to health for individuals and families across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shireen K. Gandhi'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Shireen' being more prominent.

Shireen Gandhi
Temporary Commissioner