



HCAPE

HENNEPIN COUNTY ASSOCIATION
OF PARAMEDICS AND EMTS

Chair Davids, Chair Gomez, and House Taxes Committee Members,

On behalf of the paramedics, EMTs, and EMT/EMDs of HCAPE, I am writing to urge legislative action this session to ensure the long-term stability of Hennepin Healthcare (HCMC).

Hennepin Healthcare is not just a county hospital system; it is a cornerstone of Minnesota's public health infrastructure and a statewide asset. As Minnesota's largest Medicaid provider and Level I adult and pediatric trauma center, HCMC delivers care that no other facility can fully or adequately replace. It is also home to the state's regional burn and hyperbaric centers and serves as a leading academic and research institution.

More than 75% of the patients at HCMC are publicly insured or uninsured, and nearly 29% of patients come from outside Hennepin County. Between 2020 and 2024, 40% of trauma and burn specialty patients that received care at HCMC were from outside of Hennepin County. In 2024 alone, HCMC absorbed \$104 million in uncompensated care while operating with an average of five days cash on hand. With roughly 75% of its revenue tied to public programs, the financial margins are structurally thin despite the system's critical and essential statewide role.

Our members are a part of the vital services provided at HCMC. When patients require advanced trauma care, complex surgical procedures interventions, ECMO, burn treatment, or 24/7 hyperbaric services, HCMC is there. When we care for critically injured or severely ill patients, we rely on HCMC to receive those patients and provide specialized care, advanced capabilities, and clinical expertise to achieve the best possible outcomes. All of these services depend on highly trained frontline professionals, at all levels of care, whose experience and dedication make lifesaving care possible around the clock.

As a safety-net institution, HCMC serves a disproportionate share of uninsured and underinsured patients, providing care regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Sustainable funding is not just about a balanced budget; it is about protecting access to lifesaving trauma and specialty services and maintaining a health system that can serve all Minnesotans. One important component of this effort is the proposed extension of the ballpark tax to support Hennepin Healthcare. Utilizing this existing revenue stream to stabilize the system represents a practical and responsible approach that avoids creating a new tax while ensuring that Minnesota's most critical safety-net hospital remains strong. The services provided by HCMC benefit not only Hennepin County residents but also patients and communities across the entire state. Ensuring the financial stability of this institution through tools like the ballpark tax will protect access to trauma care, burn care, specialty medicine, and the broader continuum of emergency and public health services that Minnesotans rely on every day.

We respectfully urge your support for legislative solutions that provide long-term structural stability for Hennepin Healthcare. We stand ready to partner with you to protect this vital institution.

Respectfully,

Shane Hallow
President
Hennepin County Association of Paramedics and EMTs



April 9, 2026

Co-Chair Rep. Aisha Gomez
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Co-Chair Rep. Greg Davids
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Gomez, Chair Davids, and Members of the House Taxes Committee:

I write today to urge legislators to take decisive action to ensure the continued strength and stability of Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) in downtown Minneapolis.

HCMC is a critical asset for downtown Minneapolis and the state of Minnesota. It is the premier Level I adult and pediatric trauma center, the largest safety net hospital in Minnesota, home to the State's regional burn and hyperbaric centers, and a leading academic medical and research institution that trains more than half of Minnesota's physicians.

As a major public hospital, HCMC plays a vital role in downtown's economic health, serving as a primary provider for tens of thousands of Minnesotans, a destination for unique specialized care and a significant employer. In fact, HCMC is now the largest employer in downtown Minneapolis, employing more than 7,000 people at its primary facility is on six city blocks. Not only do the employees of HCMC strengthen the health of the downtown economy but thousands of hospital visitors annually eat in our world-class restaurants, shop at our vibrant storefronts, and stay in our beautiful hotels.

We can't afford to lose this nationally renowned hospital and its unmatched expertise. I respectfully ask you to prioritize funding solutions that secure Hennepin County Medical Center financial stability and preserve its role in downtown Minneapolis and for Minnesotans across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Duininck', written in a cursive style.

Adam Duininck

President & CEO, Minneapolis Downtown Council



April 7, 2026

Minnesota House Taxes Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Co-Chair Gomez, Co-Chair Davids and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP), which represents more than 3,100 family physicians, residents and medical students across the state, we write to express our strong support for efforts to stabilize and improve funding for Hennepin Healthcare and Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC).

Hennepin Healthcare, including HCMC, plays a vital role in Minnesota's health care safety net and serves as one of the state's most important access points for comprehensive primary care. Through its extensive network of clinics, Hennepin Healthcare provides essential services to thousands of Minnesotans, including many patients who face barriers to care due to income, insurance status, language or complex health needs. The stability of HCMC and Hennepin Healthcare is therefore critical not only for the patients they directly serve, but also for the overall strength of Minnesota's health care system.

HCMC is home to one of Minnesota's important family medicine residency training programs. The residency program trains the next generation of family physicians who will practice in communities across Minnesota, including rural and underserved areas. Residency programs like this are essential to addressing Minnesota's growing primary care workforce shortage. Stable funding for HCMC helps ensure that this training pipeline remains strong and that future physicians are prepared to deliver high-quality, community-based care.

Family physicians are uniquely trained to provide comprehensive care for individuals and families in all stages of life, and many physicians practicing in Minnesota today received part of their training within the Hennepin Healthcare system. Investments that sustain HCMC and Hennepin Healthcare directly support the training environment that prepares physicians to serve patients throughout our state.

For these reasons, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians strongly supports legislative efforts to address funding challenges affecting HCMC. Ensuring its long-term stability will protect access to primary care, strengthen the physician workforce pipeline, and preserve a critical component of Minnesota's health care safety net.

Thank you for your leadership and for your commitment to ensuring that all Minnesotans have access to high-quality, affordable health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Conniff".

Jamie Conniff, MD, MPH
President, MAFP



April 9, 2026

Dear Members of the House Taxes Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), representing over 10,000 physicians and physicians-in-training across the state, I want to emphasize the essential contributions that the Hennepin Healthcare System, including the Hennepin County Medical Center, offers Minnesota's health care infrastructure.

Hennepin Healthcare serves a disproportionate number of uninsured and underinsured patients, providing care regardless of their ability to pay. Preserving this safety-net function protects vulnerable Minnesotans, while also stabilizing the broader health care system. If Hennepin Healthcare's capacity were diminished, patients in every region of Minnesota would face delayed care, longer transport times, and increased risk during their most critical moments.

Patients, providers, and other systems depend on Hennepin Healthcare for our state care delivery system. It is Minnesota's premier Level 1 trauma center for both adult and pediatric patients, home to the state's regional burn and hyperbaric centers, and a leading teaching institution that trains much of Minnesota's physician workforce. Hennepin Healthcare is one of Minnesota's most important physician training sites, with many of these physicians ultimately practicing where they are needed most - in rural and underserved communities. Protecting Hennepin Healthcare's training pipeline is essential to sustaining Minnesota's health care workforce and ensuring access to care across the state.

In recent months, Hennepin Healthcare has faced unique challenges. As federal and other funding sources become scarcer, the system has been forced to make difficult financial decisions. In addition, many of their patients and employed healthcare providers have been profiled and targeted by federal immigration enforcement. These challenges must be overcome if Minnesota is to continue as a leader in health outcomes and access to care.

I urge you to prioritize solutions that secure Hennepin Healthcare's financial stability and preserve its critical role in Minnesota's health care infrastructure. The health and safety of patients across Minnesota depend on it.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mattson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association

Minnesota Chapter

INCORPORATED IN MINNESOTA

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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April 9, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Gomez and Co-Chair Davids,

On behalf of the more than 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP), committed to improving the health of children and adolescents across Minnesota, we write to urge legislative action this session to ensure the continued strength and stability of Hennepin Healthcare, including Hennepin County Medical Center.

Children across Minnesota depend on Hennepin Healthcare as a cornerstone of our state's care delivery system. It serves as Minnesota's premier Level I trauma center for both adult and pediatric patients and provides highly specialized services essential for critically ill and injured children. Its role is not optional. It is foundational to ensure timely, lifesaving care for pediatric patients across the state.

Pediatric providers rely on Hennepin Healthcare not only for acute care, but also as a key partner in meeting the broader needs of children and families. It serves a disproportionate share of uninsured and underinsured patients, including many children facing significant social and economic barriers. Its integrated approach, combining mental health services, community outreach, and care coordination is essential to improving outcomes and advancing health equity.

Ensuring Hennepin Healthcare's long-term sustainability protects not only vulnerable Minnesotans but also stabilizes the broader health care system by preventing cost shifting and capacity strain across other hospitals and health systems.

We respectfully ask you to prioritize a dedicated sales tax to secure Hennepin Healthcare's financial stability and preserve its critical role in Minnesota's health care infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smentek".

Katie Smentek, MD

President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics



April 9, 2026

Dear members of the House Taxes Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Orthopaedic Society (MOS), representing over 150 members from a variety of practice and academic settings, I write to express our strong support for the Hennepin Healthcare System, including the Hennepin County Medical Center.

Hennepin Healthcare serves as a cornerstone of care for patients across Minnesota, particularly those who are uninsured or underinsured. As a safety-net provider, it ensures access to high-quality, timely care regardless of ability to pay, protecting vulnerable populations while strengthening the stability of the statewide health care system.

Equally important is its role as a premier teaching hospital. HCMC trains orthopaedic surgery residents, medical students, and other health professionals who go on to practice throughout Minnesota, often in rural and underserved communities. This training pipeline is essential to addressing workforce shortages and sustaining access to care statewide.

In addition, HCMC plays a vital role in the management of complex orthopaedic trauma. As a leading Level 1 trauma center, it provides highly specialized musculoskeletal care that is relied upon by patients and referring providers statewide. The expertise, infrastructure, and readiness required to deliver this level of care are significant and extend far beyond the needs of any single county.

Given its dual role as both a safety-net provider and a statewide teaching institution, Hennepin Healthcare serves a mission that benefits all Minnesotans. Its impact reaches well beyond Hennepin County borders. As such, we believe its financial support should reflect this broader responsibility and be shared at both the county and state levels.

We urge you to prioritize sustainable funding solutions that recognize Hennepin Healthcare's unique and essential role in patient care, medical education, and workforce development. Ensuring its long-term stability is critical to maintaining access to high-quality orthopaedic and trauma care across Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to the health of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brett Freedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Brett Freedman, MD
President, Minnesota Orthopaedic Society

MORE THAN A BALLPARK TARGET FIELD'S LEGACY & VISION

All dollar amounts through 2024.

A STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE THE MIDWEST'S PREMIER SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

A Model Partnership, A Bold Beginning

In 2006, Hennepin County and the Minnesota Twins forged an innovative public-private partnership to bring Target Field to life **WITHOUT** state money (**Hennepin County, \$350M; Twins, \$203M; State, \$0**).



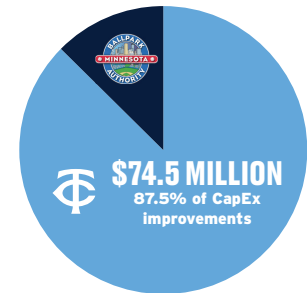
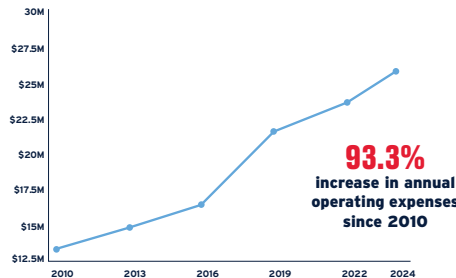
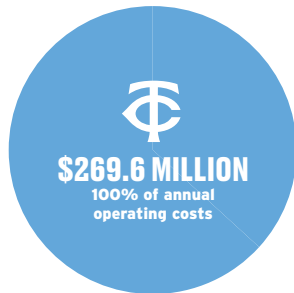
Since opening in 2010, Target Field has earned its reputation as one of the best ballparks in Major League Baseball and was recognized by **ESPN** as the **Best Stadium Experience in North America**.



Twins investments to deliver increased accessibility, streamlined security, frictionless ticketing and fan-first enhancements were honored with a **2025 Front Office Sports Most Innovative Teams Award**.

STEWARDSHIP & INVESTMENT TWINS' COMMITMENT, FANS' BENEFIT

The Twins have demonstrated true stewardship, paying **97% (\$344.1 million) of operating and capital expenses** to maintain Target Field as a world-class venue:



VISION FOR THE FUTURE MINNESOTA'S "FOREVER BALLPARK"

Making Target Field a 100-Year Ballpark

As Target Field enters its 17th season, the ballpark will require additional public-private investment aimed at ensuring the facility remains one of the best in Major League Baseball:

- **Building Systems:** Building Management; Lighting Control; Distributed Sound; HVAC; etc.
- **Baseball Ops:** Playing Field; Home/Visiting Clubhouses; Hitting/Pitching Spaces; etc.
- **Fan Amenities:** Seats; Concession Upgrades; Premium Spaces; etc.
- **Infrastructure:** Maintain and improve spaces outside the gates used by residents, workers, visitors and fans to access transit, downtown Minneapolis and the North Loop.

Blueprint for the Future

As proposed in 2024 and 2025, the Twins-Hennepin County partnership aimed at repurposing the ballpark sales tax will:

- Provide critical funding to healthcare needs across Hennepin County.
- Maintain Hennepin County's funding of youth activities and library hours.
- Ensure adequate public-private capital investment in the publicly-owned Target Field.
 - Significant Twins investment in CapEx costs and continued 100% responsibility for operating costs.
- Twins Target Field lease extension beyond original term (through 2039).
- Deliver continued excellence, economic vitality and generations of magic moments.



BASEBALL & BEYOND

TARGET FIELD IS EVERYONE'S STADIUM

Target Field is more than a physical structure – it is a place of shared joy, where cherished memories mingle with new magic moments. Beyond 81 Twins games a year, Target Field is:



#1

major outdoor music venue in the region*

hosting 30 major concerts since 2012

*according to The Minnesota Star Tribune, April 2025



GREENEST BALLPARK IN AMERICA

and the only venue in MLB with **5 LEED certifications**, setting the standard for sustainability



MINNESOTA SHOWCASE

- host site for global events like the **2014 MLB All-Star Game** and **2022 NHL Winter Classic**
- home to **200+ non-MLB events annually**, including MSHSL & NCAA baseball, fundraisers, health fairs, corporate & community gatherings - even weddings!



INTERCONNECTED

accessible by car, bike, Metro Transit or on foot, Target Field is **the most multi-modal, transit-oriented ballpark in America.**



WHY IT MATTERS

THE GATEWAY TO DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Target Field is an Iconic, Award-Winning Sports & Entertainment Venue:



34+ MILLION

visitors since 2010
(more than any other Minneapolis venue)



\$206M

in sales & entertainment tax revenue
\$61M of which directly benefitted the city of Minneapolis



CATALYST

for North Loop's transformation
as an anchor of new development throughout the neighborhood



83

major awards
for excellence in design, accessibility and environmental leadership

LEGACY OF GIVING & IMPACT

Since the moment the ballpark bill was signed, the Pohlad family, the Twins, the Twins Community Fund and the club's partners have delivered lasting impact

\$296M

from the Pohlad Family Foundation, the Twins, the MTCF and the club's partners has powered youth programs and initiatives for those most in need throughout the Twin Cities and Minnesota

\$74M

directly from the ballpark tax has funded libraries and youth sports throughout Hennepin County

Target Field is more than a ballpark. It's a shared asset that drives connection, economy and pride across our city and our state.

LET'S SECURE THE FUTURE OF MINNESOTA'S "FOREVER BALLPARK" – TOGETHER.





4/26

Dear Chair Davids & Chair Gomez and House Tax committee members,
Chair Rest & and Senate Tax Committee,

On behalf of Firefighters For Healing we write to urge decisive legislative action this session to ensure the continued strength and stability of Hennepin Healthcare, including Hennepin County Medical Center by passing SF / HF XXX **“in support of repurposing the ballpark sales tax to a health care sales tax.”**

When firefighters are burned in the line of duty, the stakes are life-altering. The difference between recovery and lifelong disability — or even survival — often depends on immediate access to specialized, expert care. Our members and their families have relied on Hennepin Healthcare’s Regional Burn Center and trauma services during their most critical moments. We have seen firsthand the extraordinary skill, compassion, and commitment of the teams who care for Minnesota’s bravest on the worst days of their lives.

Hennepin Healthcare is not simply another hospital. It is Minnesota’s premier Level I trauma center for adults and children, home to the state’s regional burn and hyperbaric centers, and a leading academic medical institution that trains more than half of Minnesota’s physicians. When catastrophic injuries occur — structure fires, explosions, industrial accidents, multi-vehicle crashes — communities across our state depend on its full operational capacity.

Firefighters face inherent risks every time they respond to a call. Severe burns require highly specialized surgical care, intensive monitoring, infection control, skin grafting, rehabilitation, and in some cases hyperbaric oxygen therapy. These services are complex, resource-intensive, and not easily replicated. Without a fully supported and financially stable Hennepin Healthcare, injured first responders could face longer transport times, delayed interventions, and diminished outcomes.

Beyond individual cases, Hennepin Healthcare plays a foundational role in Minnesota’s emergency preparedness and public safety infrastructure. Its trauma readiness, burn expertise, hyperbaric access, ECMO capability, and comprehensive tertiary services ensure that when disaster strikes — whether affecting a single firefighter or an entire community — the system is ready.

For the firefighters and families we serve, this issue is personal. We respectfully ask you to prioritize passage of a Hennepin County health care sales tax to stabilize funding solutions that secure Hennepin Healthcare’s financial stability and preserve its critical role in Minnesota’s health care and emergency response infrastructure.



FIREFIGHTERS
— FOR HEALING —

Sincerely,

Jake LaFerriere