

May 9, 2022

Dear Members of the Conference Committee,

On behalf of the more than 3,100 members of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP), I ask for your support on the following:

1. **Updates to the All-Payer Claims Database (APCD), authorizing the collection of non-claims-based payment information.** The APCD has been a critical tool to help us understand how health care is paid for and where our health care dollars are going. However, as more care is associated with value-based (vs. claims-based) payments, we are not, currently, collecting payments that fall outside a traditional health care claim. The proposed changes will ensure that a more complete picture of health care spending is captured in the APCD. (*Article 1, Sections 7-9, House bill*)

The House bill also requires a report by February 15, 2023, on the volume and distribution of health care dollars across payment models, with a focus on value-based care and primary care spending. (*Article 1, Section 100, House bill*)

2. **Language limiting insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from forcing patients to change their drug therapy in the middle of their enrollment year and requiring the use of real-time prescription benefit tools.** The language in the House bill will protect patients, who often select their insurance plan *because* the medication they need is covered. Yet, there is nothing that prohibits an insurer from changing its drug coverage in the middle of a contract. This can be dangerous! A patient is bound by a contract to remain with their insurer for the enrollment year; the insurer should be held to the same standard. (*Article 6, Sections 2, 3, and 43, House bill*)
3. **New primary care rural residency training grants.** Minnesota has a great need for additional physicians and other health care providers to practice in rural and other underserved regions of our state. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, an additional 14,100 to 17,600 physicians are needed across the country to address the shortage in rural areas. The COVID-19 pandemic has further demonstrated the urgency of investing in the health care workforce. By training in rural areas, we can expose more future physicians to rural practice and help address the primary care workforce shortage in Minnesota. (*Article 1, Section 19; Article 10, Section 3, House bill*)

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty organization in Minnesota. Our members provide comprehensive primary care to patients of all ages across the state. **These items (noted above) will make a critical difference to the health of Minnesotans.** When crafting the final HHS bill, the MAFP asks that these issues be included.

Sincerely,



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President of the MAFP
Alexandria, MN