



April 7, 2022

*Submitted via e-mail*

**RE: MNACHC Letter of Support for Provisions in HF4706**

Dear Representatives Liebling, Schultz and the Committees:

The Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the above-referenced house file, the 2022 Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill.

As you know, Community Health Centers are committed to providing access to primary medical, dental and behavioral health care for uninsured patients and public health care program enrollees. Community Health Centers, work with communities who disproportionately face health disparities to improve outcomes, and provide wrap around services that meet patients where they are. We appreciate the focus of this bill in providing greater access, and equity to health for all Minnesotans. Specifically highlighting our gratitude for the inclusion of the following provisions.

**Article 1 Section 43**

As community health workers provide culturally competent navigation of medical and safety-net systems, MNACHC appreciates additional investment into expanding the number of community health workers. This will work to create additional health equity. It is our hope that as programs continue to be established that continued conversation might take place to ensure the services provided by CHWs are Medicaid reimbursable.

**Article 1 Section 47**

This section provides increased investment into the Minnesota School Health Initiatives. School Based clinics have been providing accessible healthcare to students for almost 50 years. This bill provides state funding to ensure this program can remain viable and continue to reach children statewide.

**Article 3 Section 16 Sub. 7**

MNACHC supports continuous eligibility for Medicaid for children under 21. Continuous eligibility provides stability for families while allowing children to have access to health care.

**Article 3 Section 17**

We appreciate changes to Medicaid coverage to cover all medically necessary dental services. This allows for increased access to MA recipients who often end up in emergency rooms when they are unable to receive dental care.

**Article 3 Section 25**

As part of Minnesotan's for a Smoke-Free Generation, MNACHC was happy to see included HF 3153 on commercial tobacco cessation and treatment. These provisions allow further assistance to individuals attempting quit commercial tobacco, providing better long-term health outcomes.

**Article 3 Section 44**

MNACHC supports all options that allows for additional affordable coverage options for patients, and so support efforts included in this section create additional purchase options for individuals including a public option.

**Article 10 Sec. 2. Sud.19**

MNACHC appreciates grant funding to the Indian Health Board of Minneapolis to ensure that IHB can continue to meet the needs of the Urban Indian Community through culturally appropriate care.

We know the significant effort that it takes to develop the omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

*Rochelle Westlund*

Rochelle Westlund, Director of Public Policy  
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers