

February 17, 2025

Chair Jeff Backer
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Healthcare coverage for Minnesotans

Dear Chair Backer and Members of the Committee:

We are writing to express our strong concerns about HF 10, which would make undocumented noncitizens ineligible for MinnesotaCare.

We are strong supporters of the law effective this year that allows an individual to be eligible for MinnesotaCare regardless of their citizenship or immigration status, if they meet all other MinnesotaCare eligibility factors. As health care leaders in Hennepin County, we have seen firsthand the need for affordable and accessible health care coverage, and the inequitable and detrimental health outcomes that result from lack of coverage.

Lack of insurance within our communities results in uncompensated care for health care systems like Hennepin Healthcare, the state's safety net health care system. As a safety-net hospital, we deliver high-quality care to everyone no matter their situation. In accordance with federal EMTALA (Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act) law, we are required to provide life-saving care to all who enter our health system, regardless of insurance status.

The inclusion of undocumented families in MinnesotaCare eligibility now means that more Minnesota families can access the health care they need to live healthy lives and circumvent preventable severe or chronic medical conditions, and health care providers are reimbursed for the care they provide. It is not uncommon for patients without health care coverage to avoid preventative health care, or only seek health care services in life-or-death situations. MinnesotaCare inclusion means that more families are now able to access the care they need when they need it, resulting in better health outcomes and less uncompensated care.

Excluding Minnesotans from basic health care coverage poses a serious public health threat. Healthier families mean healthier and more prosperous communities.

Sincerely,



Irene Fernando
Chair
Hennepin County Board of
Commissioners

HENNEPIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Jennifer DeCubellis
Chief Executive Officer
Hennepin Healthcare System



Hennepin**Healthcare**