



705 Raymond Ave.
Suite #100
Saint Paul, MN 55114
651-641-6199

4/30/23

Re: Support for SF2995

Chair Wiklund, Chair Liebling, and members of the S.F. 2995 Conference Committee,

TakeAction Minnesota is a grassroots, multi-racial people's organization that believes in a democracy and government that work for all of us. With our members, we advocate for policies that promote justice and fairness. For more than 15 years, TakeAction Minnesota has worked to promote a people-centered healthcare system, and this legislative session we have activated more than 4,000 people from every corner of our state to contact their representatives on these important issues. We want to express our strong support for the following provisions in the Health Omnibus bill:

We support the provisions from H.F. 96/S.F. 49 to implement a MinnesotaCare public option (included in Art. 16 of the Senate bill and Art. 2 in the House). To implement this proposal and bring relief to Minnesotans, it is critical that an actuarial analysis of a public option allowing Minnesotans over 200% FPL to buy-in to MinnesotaCare is completed for inclusion in the waiver application. We urge the committee to adopt language to clarify these steps and meet the 2027 implementation timeline.

We must end the cruel and senseless exclusion of immigrants without status from our public healthcare programs. We are grateful to see that both the Senate and House positions expand MinnesotaCare eligibility to some undocumented Minnesotans, but we urge you to take the House position which includes adults as well as youth. Everyone deserves access to healthcare. Furthermore, most undocumented immigrants in Minnesota are essential workers. Minnesota benefits from their hard, and sometimes dangerous, labor, from their taxes, and from their presence in our communities. They need and deserve access to medical benefits. (House Art. 2, Sec. 23.)

TakeAction Minnesota has always supported healthcare as a public good. We support the deprivatization of our healthcare programs (House Art. 2, Sec. 10) and the study of the cost of a single payer health care system (House Art. 2, Sec. 29). When private entities do play a role in our health care system, it is essential that we steward those resources for the public good. TakeAction Minnesota supports extending the HMO conversion moratorium until July 1, 2026 (it otherwise expires this summer); and the House position requesting recommendations on additional regulation of conversions, mergers, and other transactions between non-profit and for-profit HMOs. (Senate Art. 4, Sec. 11; House Art. 3, Secs. 177, 197) We also support the bill's common-sense regulations around hospital mergers. Like HMO conversions, hospital mergers put public interest assets at risk and can result in increased healthcare costs and decreased options for the public. (Senate Art. 4, Sec. 37; House Art. 3, Sec. 76)



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Finally, we support reproductive healthcare access and bodily autonomy. In light of increasing restrictions on abortion access nationally, it is absolutely essential that Minnesota remove discriminatory, harmful, and unconstitutional restrictions on abortion from our statutes. We support the elements from the Reproductive Freedom Codification Act included in this bill.

Thank you, and please include these elements in your final bill,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elianne Farhat".

Elianne Farhat
Executive Director | TakeAction Minnesota