

AFSCME COUNCIL 65

Mark Reger
President

Shannon Douvier
Executive Director

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About AFSCME 65

AFSCME Council 65 represents over 14,000 public and private sector workers in Minnesota and the Dakotas. From nurses to highway crews, school workers to peace officers, our members provide the vital services that make our communities work.

AFSCME's 1.6 million members nationwide advocates for fairness in the workplace, excellence in public services and prosperity and opportunity for all working families.

February 8, 2023

Chair Tina Liebling
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155



Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

AFSCME Council 65 represents Public Health and Human Services workers in many of the 33 rural Minnesota counties operating County Based Purchasing Plans (CBP). Our members passionately advocate for this model because they believe it is the best way that we can serve Minnesotans living in rural communities who need assistance. CBP plans allow them to provide dependable access to quality care with better coordination with other county and community services. This results in more efficient and effective services with better outcomes for their clients. It also improves transparency and accountability in rural care.

For these reasons, we share the concerns of the participating counties that the opt out provisions in HF 816 could inadvertently harm or reverse the success of the CBP plans like Itasca Medical Care. Many rural counties already have small enrollment pools and HF 816 would limit their ability to maintain the effectiveness of their CBP plans as the enrollment pool becomes divided. Any split in enrollments would likely force counties to reduce local support staff who guide community members through their care and service options.

As written, we cannot support HF 816, however we look forward to continued discussion on ways we can improve healthcare access and outcomes in Minnesota.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shannon Douvier
Executive Director
AFSCME 65