



March 29, 2023

To: Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF2930 – Health Finance and Policy Omnibus

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's comments on HF2930 – Health Finance and Policy Omnibus bill. LSS is a provider of essential services across all 87 counties with more than 2,500 employees who serve one in 65 Minnesotans every year. We are committed to innovative, person-centered service delivery that promotes resilience and long-term stability for people in all stages of life.

Thank you for including provisions that will respond to community needs and improve access to service. This is a critical step to providing adequate and stable resources that ensure our neighbors are supported when, where and how they need it.

**Screening for eligibility and public assistance.** Thank you for including provisions from HF2599 (Reyer). LSS Financial Counseling is a trusted, nonjudgmental resource with over 30 years of experience and consistently sees the impact of medical debt on our neighbors. These provisions will remove barriers for Minnesotans who qualify for public programs to receive assistance thereby reducing medical debt and increasing payment to medical providers.

**Mental Health Bridge Funding.** Thank you for including a temporary rate increase through bridge funding. Providers are experiencing multiple challenges to meet the needs of Minnesotans accessing community-based mental health services. This investment will begin to address reimbursement rates that are far below the true cost of service and a severe shortage of well-qualified and licensed mental health providers. We respectfully request consideration of increasing the proposed 4%.

**Continuous Eligibility.** Thank you for including provisions to provide continuous eligibility for children eligible for Medical Assistance. This will provide consistent access to health care and improve outcomes for children while reducing administrative burden and churn.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration on these issues. Please contact me at [erin.sutton@lssmn.org](mailto:erin.sutton@lssmn.org) if we may provide further information.

Sincerely,

Erin Sutton, MSW, LGSW  
Senior Director of Advocacy  
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota