



April 11, 2023

Chair Klein  
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Chair Klein and committee members:

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) represents 80 percent of all active bedside hospital nurses in Minnesota and is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state. We are a leader in nursing, labor, health care, and social justice communities and a voice for nurses and patients on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

Thank you for your work to make healthcare more affordable in SF49. MNA supports the following provisions in this legislation:

**MN Health Plan Study**

MNA strongly supports the provisions for a study that examines the costs and benefits of a universal healthcare system, in comparison with the current public and private healthcare financing system. In other countries with various forms of public healthcare financing, costs to patients and taxpayers are far lower, and health outcomes are better. We support this study to show how a publicly financed healthcare system in Minnesota would compare to our current patchwork of public and private insurance. In our current complicated, expensive, and inefficient system, too many Minnesotans are underinsured; rationing medications; delaying or skipping care due to cost; and going into debt or even bankruptcy due to healthcare bills. Minnesotans deserve to know what our healthcare could look like if the profit motive of insurance conglomerates, hospital corporations and pharmaceutical companies was removed, and resources were invested into actual care.

**MNCare Immigrant Inclusion Act**

We applaud the work to include undocumented children in coverage for MNCare. It is vital that our youngest Minnesotans have health insurance access. However, all Minnesotans deserve access to affordable and accessible healthcare regardless of income and immigration status. Expanding coverage to undocumented immigrants of all ages would save both money and lives. We urge the legislature to expand this coverage to undocumented people of all ages.

**Continuous Enrollment**

We also express our support for continuous eligibility for Medicaid coverage. Continuous eligibility ensures that individuals and families who are already enrolled in Medicaid do not lose coverage due to administrative hurdles or minor

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fluctuations in income, and that the youngest Minnesotans in the state have consistent access to healthcare coverage. Nurses see every day the challenges patients experience when there are difficulties accessing health insurance and there can be many barriers for enrollment in public programs. MNA also recognizes that this is a cost-saving and life-saving measure as well and commends this work to make Minnesota a leader in providing better access to those in need.

**Healthcare Affordability Board and Cost-Sharing Program**

MNA supports healthcare reform that ensures affordability and accessibility to all while preserving the right of healthcare for all patients and the health and wellness of all Minnesotans. This section of the bill works to reduce the costs of healthcare and better protects consumers from unaffordable healthcare costs. MNA supports this work but hopes that more progress can be made to simplify the system and allow consumers better access to care. We believe that removing our public program's dependency on managed care organizations will result in more dollars being spent directly on care and meaningful changes to affordability and access.

Thank you for your work to support a better healthcare system. We appreciate and are grateful for the work and passion put into this omnibus bill and look forward to working with you in the upcoming weeks to continue building on this critical piece of legislation.

Sincerely,



Shannon M. Cunningham  
Director of Governmental and Community Relations  
Minnesota Nurses Association