



COMMITTEE TO PROTECT HEALTH CARE

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Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Sen. Matt Klein, Chair

Dear Chair Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee,

The Committee to Protect Health Care writes to support SF49 Sec. 3 to create a MinnesotaCare Public Option available for buy-in by all Minnesotans. As a mobilization of doctors and medical professionals committed to expanding access to affordable health care, and on behalf of 150+ medical professionals across Minnesota, we believe passing this legislation will expand health care coverage, improve the health of hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans, and save lives for generations to come.

Physicians and medical professionals see each and every day how important access to affordable, continuous health care is for patients. With health care coverage that doesn't break the bank, people can get the preventive care they need to remain healthy and keep serious health conditions at bay. Without it, people forgo needed screenings and treatments, allowing health conditions to worsen and become more painful and difficult to treat. People are then forced to be treated in hospitals and emergency rooms, adding enormous costs to our health care system.

By passing the MinnesotaCare Public Option, the Legislature can ensure that Minnesotans whose incomes are too high to qualify for MinnesotaCare currently, but for whom private health care plans are too costly, can access quality care without having to forgo groceries or fall behind on rent. This legislation builds on a proven model, as MinnesotaCare has successfully provided coverage for low-income working individuals since 1992. The Public Option will allow more Minnesotans — farmers, small business owners, rural residents, and more — to access this quality care. SF49 Sec. 3 can help close the coverage gap of the [200,000 Minnesotans](#) who aren't currently insured, while reducing inequities and racial disparities in care.

The public is on our side. [Ninety-one percent of Minnesota residents](#) support government expanding health insurance options so that everyone can afford quality coverage.

Passing the MinnesotaCare Public Option is the popular and right thing to do to improve patients' health, reduce health care costs long-term, and strengthen our communities. We urge you to approve SF49 Sec. 3 without delay so that all Minnesotans can access the care they need to live healthy, productive lives. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Davidson
Executive Director