



April 17, 2023

The Honorable John Marty
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3235
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for provisions in Senate File 2995

Dear Chair Marty and members of the Committee:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on SF 2995, the Senate's omnibus Health and Human Services bill for the session.

LLS encourages your committee to support the following patient-friendly provisions in the bill:

1. Drug Formulary Committee composition reform (Art. 1, Sec. 10)
Bringing more patient voices to the table and improving public transparency in the Drug Formulary Committee's work will help the Committee make decisions that better meet patients' needs.
2. All-payer claims data provisions (Art. 1, Sec. 29 – 31)
These provisions will deliver important transparency and more comprehensive data to inform the analysis of healthcare cost trends in Minnesota.
3. Fertility treatment and preservation coverage (Art. 2, Sec. 2)
LLS appreciates the proposed expansion of these benefits for the large-group market in Minnesota. No blood cancer patient, or parents of a young patient, should be put into a position where they must weigh the costs of fertility preservation services – needed only because of their cancer treatment – against the costs of the treatment itself.
4. Health equity programs (Art. 4, Sec. 29 – 35, 58, 68, and 97)
Some groups—including but not limited to people of color, those with low incomes, people who identify as LGBTQIA and those who live in rural areas—face systemic social, economic and environmental disadvantages that can impact their care. The programs created in these bill sections will help Minnesota take overdue steps forward to address these disadvantages.
5. Coverage screening and billing protections for uninsured patients (Art. 4, Sec. 51)
Screening for presumptive eligibility for charity care or health insurance will provide essential protections to patients who may be uninsured yet eligible for coverage or cost-sharing supports. Similarly, billing protections will ensure that most uninsured Minnesotans are charged favorable prices for care. Both measures will reduce the risks and burdens of uninsurance.

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6. Palliative Care Advisory Council (Art. 4, Sec. 90 and 98; Art. 19, Sec. 2 and 3)
Palliative care help patients, caregivers, and families on multiple levels. Minnesota's Palliative Care Advisory Council strives to improve access and quality in this field and will benefit from restored staff funding, the elimination of its sunset date, and a funded study of the value of a comprehensive palliative care benefit for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.
7. Easy enrollment option through state tax filings (Art. 17, Sec. 11 and 21 – 23)
Creating a voluntary path for Minnesotans to request MNsure eligibility and cost savings information when filing taxes can help address the same uninsurance concerns identified in section 5 of this letter.
8. Continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) child enrollees (Art. 17, Sec. 14)
Coverage gaps are potentially disastrous at any age. These changes will promote coverage stability for children, financial stability for families, and greater health equity for underserved communities.
9. Elimination of MA cost-sharing and deductibles (Art. 17, Sec. 15)
Especially for lower-income families, cost-sharing measures lead to diminished coverage, increased financial burdens, and poorer access to care. This proposed change in state law will help prevent these harmful outcomes that impact blood cancer patients and other Minnesotans.
10. MinnesotaCare coverage expansion (Art. 17, Sec. 18 – 20 and 25 – 26)
To access the care they need, cancer patients must have access to meaningful health insurance coverage. Their lives literally depend on it. Given the intent of this section of the amendment to establish new, competitive coverage options for Minnesota patients that offer comprehensive coverage with reasonable cost-sharing limits, comprehensive benefits packages, adequate provider networks, and vital consumer protections, LLS supports these sections of the bill.

LLS hopes your committee will support the policies outlined in our letter and welcomes the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



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