

April 16, 2023

Minnesota Senate Finance Committee
Senator John Marty
Elspeth.cavert@senate.mn

Dear Senator Marty, Senator Wicklund and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota chapter of the American College of Physicians, we respectfully encourage you to support and vote in favor of specific sections in the omnibus Health and Human Services omnibus bill **SF2995**. The Minnesota chapter of the American College of Physicians (MN-ACP) represents nearly 2500 internal medicine physicians and internal medicine trainees that take care of adult patients in clinics/hospitals throughout the state. The following provisions of the bill support improving health, healthcare access and increasing health equity for Minnesota residents. We support the following proposals included in your Omnibus bill.

- Increasing Access to Healthcare through Capacity and Workforce Investment.
- Recuperative Care for people who are unhoused should be paid for by Medicaid so health systems and housing providers can establish the infrastructure needed to care for people who are unhoused after an acute or post-acute health care incident, preventing hospitalization and pivoting to longer term housing, and the funding included for the follow-up homeless mortality study helps us to understand the impact of these services.
- Support the education and training of professionals providing mental health or substance use disorder treatment services and provide loan forgiveness and professional scholarship grants.
- Prevention of violence in health care is one of the best ways we can recruit and retain staff. Health care worker safety grant funding for providers will protect our health care workers. Please increase this grant amount, as violence against health care workers rises, more resources are needed.
- Extended authority for the use of audio-only telehealth in MHCP.

As the Omnibus process continues, we hope you will reconsider the following proposals for inclusion:

- The Comprehensive Drug Overdose and Morbidity Prevention Act which would provide access to critical treatment and address the drug epidemic, especially the harm reduction services for people experiencing homelessness. The homeless overdose prevention hubs and advancing access to evidence-based nonnarcotic pain management services are especially needed and recommend including funding at the same level as the Governor's proposal.

As physicians, we see first-hand the impact of disparities in health care coverage and access on our patients and their families. These provisions of SF2995 will help improve public health, reduce and prevent health disparities and increase access to substance use services, referral and treatment. Thank you for your consideration. Please contact Minnesota.ACP@gmail.com if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely yours,



David Hilden, MD, MPH, FACP
MN-ACP Governor



Sally Berryman, MD, FACP
MN-ACP Health Policy Committee Chair