

April 15, 2023

To: Members of the Senate Finance Committee

Re: MinnesotaCare Public Option in the Senate Omnibus bill

Chair Marty and members of the committee,

We write to express our strong support for establishing a MinnesotaCare Public Option (HF96, SF49), and for the elements of this bill included so far in this omnibus. Across race, income, and zip code every person deserves access to healthcare. We know that our families, economy, and local communities are stronger when we all have access to truly affordable, high-quality healthcare that supports our health and wellbeing.

That's why we support a MinnesotaCare Public Option, to allow more Minnesotans to access the affordable, comprehensive healthcare they need.

Established in 1992 through bipartisan leadership, MinnesotaCare is affordable and high-quality healthcare that we fund together through state, federal, and enrollee contributions.

Portions of Article 17 of this bill would:

- **Expand access to affordable healthcare** by allowing Minnesotans struggling to afford high deductible plans on the individual market to buy-in to MinnesotaCare through a public option.
- **Expand eligibility** to include some of the undocumented Minnesotans who are currently excluded from Minnesota Health Care Programs (those who are under age 19)
- **Create a path toward alternative care delivery systems** that will work with providers to improve health outcomes, health equity, and access while maintaining affordability for the state and enrollees.

We believe that healthcare should be people-centered, include everyone, and not be dependent on employment. A vast majority of Minnesotans agree, with 91 percent saying that they believe the government should expand insurance options so that everyone can afford quality care (Healthcare Value Hub Survey, Nov. 2020).

We urge you to support truly affordable, high-quality healthcare for every Minnesotan. Please vote to support the expansion of MinnesotaCare.

Signed,

(over for signatures)

AARP

AFSCME Council 5

AFSCME Council 65

American Diabetes Association

Black Immigrant Collective

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota

Committee to Protect Health Care

CURE

East Central Labor Council

Education Minnesota

Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Faith in Minnesota

Health Access MN

Immigrant Welcoming Working Group,

Plymouth Congregational

Church, Minneapolis

Interfaith Coalition on Immigration

(ICOM)

ISAIAH

Land Stewardship Project

Main Street Alliance

Minneapolis Regional Labor

Federation

Minnesota Budget Project

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
(MCLA)

Minnesota Public Health Association

Minnesota Farmers Union

North East Area Labor Council

OutFront Minnesota

Placemaker Hospitality

Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD
Action Fund

Rural Organizing Project of ISAIAH
MN

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa

SEIU Minnesota State Council

Springboard for the Arts

Southeast Minnesota Area Labor
Council, AFL-CIO

TakeAction Minnesota

Unidos MN

Voices for Racial Justice

West Area Labor Council