

# MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

## Health & Human Services Finance & Policy Committee

Health and Human Services Committee  
Wednesday, February 1st, 2023  
8:30am Livestream YouTube

### Minutes

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**Present:** Senator Melissa H. Wiklund- Chair, Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator John Hoffman, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Bill Lieske, Senator Kelly Morrison

**Absent:** No Absent Members

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Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 8:34am on Wednesday, February 1st, 2023, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

### **AGENDA ITEM #1: Presentation on planning for the end of COVID-19 continuous coverage requirements – Minnesota Department of Human Services**

The first item up on the agenda was a presentation on planning for the end of COVID-19 continuous coverage requirements by the Department of Human Services.

#### **The following individuals gave a presentation on planning for the end of COVID-19 continuous coverage requirements:**

- o Cynthia MacDonald, Assistant Commissioner and State Medicaid Director
- o Karen Gibson, Director, MN Department of HealthCare Eligibility/Access

Member questions and discussion followed the presentation.

Senator Abeler asked a question about how much is in the February forecast to cover the costs associated with this programing.

Assistant Commissioner MacDonald answered Senator Abeler's question.

Senator Abeler asked about how many individuals coverage will fall off with and without this program being implemented and commented on the spend down issues.

Assistant Commissioner MacDonald answered Senator Abeler's questions.

Chair Wiklund asked a question on if the 12-month cohort model will help the department anticipate where they are having issues and adapt processes with the program.

Assistant Commissioner MacDonald answered Chair Wiklund's question.

Senator Utke asked about the amount of money that has come into the state.

Assistant Commissioner MacDonald answered Senator Utke's question.

Senator Utke asked if MNsure special enrollment would be open for those who may lose their coverage after this process.

Karen Gibson, Director of Minnesota Department of Health Care Eligibility and Access, answered Senator Utke's questions.

Chair Wiklund asked if there may be a timeframe for the special enrollment period.

Karen Gibson answered Chair Wiklund's question.

Senator Hoffman commented on the presentation and asked about roadblocks that may come up during the disenrollment process.

Assistant Commissioner MacDonald responded to Senator Hoffman's comments.

Chair Wiklund commented about how this was proposal was included in the Governor's budget recommendations.

Assistant Commissioner responded to Chair Wiklund's comments.

**MINNESOTA STATE SENATE**  
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**AGENDA ITEM #2: SF 388 (DIBBLE): Homeless Youth Act modification and appropriation.**

The second item up on the agenda was S.F. 388, authored by Senator Dibble as follows:

S.F. 388 (Dibble): Homeless Youth Act modification and appropriation.

Senator Dibble offered the A2 Amendment.

Senator Abeler moved the A2 Amendment.

**On a voice vote, THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A2 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Senator Dibble provided opening comments and explained S.F. 388, as amended, to the committee.

**The following individuals testified on S.F. 388:**

- Rhonda Otteson, Executive Director with the MN Coalition for the Homeless, testified in support of S.F. 388.
- Beth Holger, CEO of The Link, testified in support of S.F. 388.
- Kris, private citizen/shelter guest at Oasis Central, testified in support of S.F. 388.
- Steve Horsefield, Executive Director of Simpson Housing, testified in support of S.F. 388.

Senator Dibble provided additional comments on S.F. 388.

Steve Horsefield provided additional comments on why funding for this project is needed early on in the session.

**Continuation of testimony:**

- Brenda Pritchard, Director of Service Provider, CloseKnit, testified in support of S.F. 388

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Utke asked about the bill path for S.F. 388.

Chair Wiklund answered Senator Utke's questions.

Senator Utke commented on how he would like to see a connection with other services, such as job training, with this bill.

Senator Dibble responded to Senator Utke's comments.

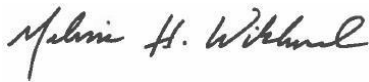
Chair Wiklund commented on S.F. 388.

Senator Dibble provided closing comments on S.F. 388.

**Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 388, as amended, for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

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**The meeting was adjourned at 10:18am**



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Senator Melissa H. Wiklund



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Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant