

Madam Chair and Committee:

Thank you for allowing me an opportunity to share my story and for hearing this important bill SF404 today.

I am writing today in support of SF404 on behalf of my personal and professional story. For 21 years I live with Multiple Sclerosis and active with the National MS Society and for 37 years working in MN Healthcare experience that I urge you to please vote for "The Freedom to Choose" bill SF404 today.

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> "Freedom to Choose" is important to All Minnesota Medicaid patients and families for many reasons. Based on my professional and personal experience, I truly believe SF404 is in the best interest of Minnesota Medicaid patients & families. MN Medicaid includes many Minnesotans. It includes children and adults living with disabilities. There may be a variety of racial, ethnic, cultural, and language differences or there may be mental, physical, ,religious, social, or economic diversities that require patients to **choose** their providers. For these reasons patients and families deserve the dignity and they have the right to **choose** providers that they trust to care for them in their own best interest.

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> I personally know that having the Freedom to **Choose** my providers is very important in managing my disease, multiple sclerosis. Choosing providers that I trust empowers me and enables me to live my best days. I trust that my providers will care for me in my best interest and every MN Medicaid patient should have this opportunity. It is time All (not just a chosen few) MN Medicaid patients and families are treated equally and with dignity and have the Freedom to choose the healthcare providers that they feel will care for them in their best interest.

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> Lets face it, It is inhumane and morally wrong for the state of Minnesota or any individual to not allow Minnesota Medicaid patients the dignity and Freedom to choose providers in their own best interest.

Please vote to pass SF404

Please circulate my written testimony with all Committee members

> Sincerely

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