## End Government Discrimination Against Medical Assistance Patients

## Pass the Freedom to Choose Bill

Mission of the Freedom to Choose bill:

Restore equal access to all Medical Assistance patients to choose their own doctors and other health care providers.

- SF404 Author: Dr. Alice Mann Co-Authors: Jim Abeler, DC; John Marty, Dr. Matt Klein, Liz Boldon
- HF816 Author: Kim Hicks Co-Authors: Tina Liebling, Peter Fischer, Brion Curran, Athena Hollins, Hodan Hassan, Amanda Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Samantha Vang
  - Eliminates discrimination, enforced by state government, among Medical Assistance patients. Currently, a minority of them are granted the <u>Freedom to Choose</u> their preferred doctors and other health care providers, but the state withholds this right to choose from the majority of Medical Assistance patients.
  - Reduces racial disparities, allowing Medical Assistance patients the <u>Freedom to Choose</u> culturally appropriate health care providers.
  - Provides good transparency and accountability on the tax funds paying for patients who
    exercise the <u>Freedom to Choose</u> their preferred health care providers. There is no
    payment transparency, and only the most minimum accountability, on tax funds
    devoted to the majority of patients who lack the <u>Freedom to Choose</u> due to receiving
    care through managed care organizations.

ACTION: Support this bill:

- 1. Become a co-author
- 2. Speak up in favor of the bill in committees and in floor sessions.
- 3. Vote for the bill in committee hearings and in floor sessions.



Health Policy Advocates initiated this bill. We are a multi-partisan citizen group in Minnesota for improved health care access and ending discrimination against Medical Assistance patients.

Contact Diane Peterson, 651 487 8007, <u>oak7@centurylink.net</u>; or Sharon Schmidt, 952 996 9070, <u>sschmidt776@usfamily.net</u>