

Written Testimony of James Grotz, Edina, MN before the:
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Chair, Senator Melissa Wiklund Thursday February 16th, 2023

For S.F. 0404 (Mann) Attn: Anna Burke, Committee Administrator

Chair Wiklund and members of the Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony as a private individual and not representing any organization. I am in favor of this bill; MA enrollees should have the “Freedom to Choose” their health care providers. Managed care tiered networks severely limit the choice of doctors available to MA enrollees. MA enrollees are capable of making their own health care decisions to manage their health care.

As a Federal and Minnesota taxpayer who funds MA, it is my opinion that passing this bill will reduce existing health care racial disparities. Somehow DHS and the managed care plans have forgotten over the years that the “right to choose your health care provider” is a “right of personal responsibility”. It appears DHS and these managed care plans want to make every decision for all MA enrollees to include denying needed care to MA enrollees when it is to the financial benefit of the managed care plans.

I have been in the financial services industry for more than 40 years. I must act under SEC and FINRA regulations in the “Best Interest of my Clients”. S.F. 0404 empowers MA enrollees with the “Opportunity to Opt Out” in the “Best Interest of their own Health Care”.

Please pass S.F. 0404 and support the companion bill in the Minnesota House.

Thank you for taking my written testimony and for making this part of the public record for S.F. 0404.

James Grotz, Edina, MN

Dated: February 7, 2023