

MINNESOTA STATE SENATE

Health & Human Services Finance & Policy Committee

Health and Human Services Committee
Thursday, February 16th, 2023
8:30am Livestream YouTube

Minutes

Present: Senator Melissa H. Wiklund- Chair, Senator Paul Utke – Minority Lead, Senator Jim Abeler, Senator Liz Boldon, Senator Rob Kupec, Senator Kelly Morrison

Absent: Senator Alice Mann – Vice Chair, Senator John Hoffman, Senator Bill Lieske

Chair Wiklund called the meeting to order at 8:35am on Thursday, February 16th, 2023, in Room 1100 of the Minnesota Senate Building. A quorum was present.

Chair Wiklund provided an overview of the committee's agenda.

Chair Wiklund passed the gavel to Senator Boldon.

AGENDA ITEM #1: SF 531 (WIKLUND): Procedures specification for the disenrollment of medical assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

The first bill up on the agenda was S.F. 531, authored by Senator Wiklund as follows:

S.F. 531 (Wiklund): Procedures specification for the disenrollment of medical assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

Senator Wiklund provided opening comments and explained Senate File 531 to the committee.

Senator Wiklund moved the A1 Authors Amendment.

Senator Wiklund explained the A1 Authors Amendment.

Senator Abeler commented on the A1 Authors Amendment.

On a voice vote, **THE MOTION PREVAILED AND THE A1 AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED.**

Presentation by DHS: Continuous Eligibility in Medical Assistance: A Step Toward Better Health and Racial Equity

In conjunction with S.F. 531, the following individuals gave a presentation on continuous eligibility in medical assistance:

- Dr. Nathan Chomilo, Medical Director for Medicaid and MinnesotaCare, DHS

Senator Wiklund provided additional comments on the presentation and Senate File 531.

Member questions and discussion for Dr. Nathan Chomilo, M.D.

Senator Abeler commented on the presentation and S.F. 531.

Dr. Nathan Chomilo responded to Senator Abeler's comments.

Senator Utke commented about geographical gaps mentioned in the presentation.

Senator Utke asked a question about the status of a fiscal note for the bill and about the medical churn associated with these government programs.

Senator Wiklund responded to Senator Utke's questions.

Dr. Nathan Chomilo responded to Senator Utke's questions.

Senator Utke responded to Dr. Nathan Chomilo's comments.

Senator Abeler commented on the county-based Medicaid system and how they are conducting their work.

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The following individuals testified on S.F. 531:

- Ann Quincy, Supervising Attorney at Legal Aid's Government Benefit's Unit, testified in support of S.F. 531.
- Sue Abderholden, Executive Director of NAMI Minnesota, testified in support of S.F. 531.
- Laura LaCroix-Dalluhn, Minnesota Prenatal to Three Coalition, testified in support of S.F. 531.

Senator Wiklund provided closing comments on S.F. 531.

Senator Abeler asked a question about continuous coverage for children up to six years of age.

Senator Wiklund responded to Senator Abeler's question.

Senator Utke asked a question about continuous coverage for adults over 18 years of age and if the federal government currently allows for this & if it is a waived process.

Senator Wiklund responded to Senator Utke's question.

Chair Boldon laid over Senate File 531, as amended, for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #2: SF 49 (WIKLUND): Transitional cost-sharing reduction, premium subsidy, small employer public option and transitional health care credit establishment

The second bill up on the agenda was S.F. 49, authored by Senator Wiklund as follows:

S.F. 49 (Wiklund): Transitional cost-sharing reduction, premium subsidy, small employer public option and transitional health care credit establishment

Senator Wiklund provided opening comments and explained Senate File 49 to the committee.

The following individuals testified on S.F. 49:

- Barb Keith, private citizen, testified in support of S.F. 49.
- Luke Breen with the Main Street Alliance, testified in support of S.F. 49.
- Chris Schneeman with Seven Hills Cleveland insurance agency, Minnesota Association of Health Underwriters (MAHU), testified in opposition to S.F. 49.
- Dr. Aleta Borrud, Retired Physician, Land Stewardship Project testified in support of S.F. 49.
- Dan Endreson with the MN Council of Health Plans testified on S.F. 49.
- Peter Nelson, Senior Policy Fellow at Center of the American Experiment testified in opposition of S.F. 49.
- Cindy VanDerPol, private citizen & farmer, testified in support of S.F. 49
- Kate Lynch with SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa testified in support of S.F. 49
- Dr. Bob Koshnick, private family physician, testified in opposition of S.F. 49.

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Utke asked if the bill was passed into law what the impact on the current individual market would be.

Senator Wiklund answered Senator Utke's question.

Senator Utke asked a question about provider reimbursement rates increasing.

Senator Wiklund responded to Senator Utke's question.

Senator Utke commented on S.F. 49 and about making sure that we are keeping providers in business.

Senator Wiklund responded to Senator Utke's comments.

Senator Utke asked if there is an income cap in the individual market where at some point individuals max out and are no longer eligible to buy into MNCare.

Senator Wiklund answered Senator Utke's questions.

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Senator Abeler commented on S.F. 49.

Senator Wiklund provided closing comments on S.F. 49.

Chair Boldon laid over Senate File 49.

Senator Boldon passed the gavel back to Chair Wiklund.

AGENDA ITEM #3: SF 896 (MANN): MinnesotaCare eligibility for undocumented noncitizens establishment.

The third bill up on the agenda was S.F. 896, authored by Senator Mann as follows: MinnesotaCare eligibility for undocumented noncitizens establishment.

S.F. 896 (Mann): Transitional cost-sharing reduction, premium subsidy, small employer public option and transitional health care credit establishment.

On behalf of Senator Mann, Senator Morrison provided opening comments and explained Senate File 896 to the committee.

The following individuals testified on S.F. 896:

- Angela Bowles Edwards, East Metro Outreach Manager for the Epilepsy Foundation of MN, testified in support of S.F. 896
- Maria Maldonado with Unidos MN testified in support of S.F. 896
- Veena Iyer, Executive Director of Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, testified in support of S.F. 896

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Utke commented on S.F. 896 & immigration proceedings.

Senator Morrison responded to Senator Utke's comments.

Senator Boldon commented on S.F. 896.

Chair Wiklund commented on S.F. 896

Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 896 over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #4: SF 404 (MANN): Medical assistance enrollees permission to opt out of managed care enrollment.

The fourth bill up on the agenda was S.F. 404, authored by Senator Mann as follows:

S.F. 404 (Mann): Medical assistance enrollees permission to opt out of managed care enrollment.

On behalf of Senator Mann, Senator Boldon provided opening comments and explained Senate File 404 to the committee.

The following individuals testified on S.F. 404:

- Idil Abdull, private citizen, testified in support of S.F. 404
- Diane Peterson, Co-Founder of Health Policy Advocates, testified in support of S.F. 404
- Dan Endreson, MN Council of Health Plans, testified on S.F. 404.
- Omar Jamal, private citizen, testified in support of S.F. 404.
- Phil Griffin, MN Association of County Health Plans, testified in opposition to S.F. 404
- RaeAnna Buchholz, Legislative & Coalitions Director, Americans for Prosperity, MN, testified in support of S.F. 404

Member questions and discussion followed.

Senator Abeler commented on S.F. 404.

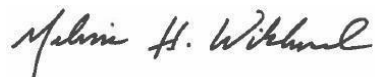
Senator Boldon provided closing comments on S.F. 404.

Chair Wiklund commented on S.F. 404.

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Chair Wiklund laid over Senate File 404 for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39am



Senator Melissa H. Wiklund



Hailey Ryan, Legislative Assistant