



Committee on Health and Human Services
Minnesota Senate
February 16, 2023
Senate File 49 – Public Option Health Insurance

Dear Committee Members,

The Minnesota Business Partnership is a membership organization consisting of business leaders from Minnesota's largest employers, employing almost half a million workers across the state. Minnesota ranks near the top in the nation for health care coverage, and we are grateful to our many world-class health care providers. Health care affordability and access are vitally important to our members, and I write to express some of our concerns regarding Senate File 49.

While we support MinnesotaCare as it currently operates and share the goal of affordable and accessible health care for all, this bill does not address escalating health insurance costs and may exacerbate the problem. Senate File 49 will lead to greater cost-shifting for private-pay individuals in order to make up for the lower reimbursement rates from public programs. As higher health care costs are passed along to private health insurers, insurance rates for workers enrolled in employer-sponsored health insurance programs will increase.

Senate File 49 could reduce access to health care as the limitations of cost-shifting are reached. As the public-pay population increases, health care providers will be increasingly unable to make up for lower reimbursement rates. Providers already operating on the margin may be forced to cut services without an increased allocation from taxpayers, while they are still recovering from the financial impact of the pandemic.

We appreciate the committee's desire to decrease health insurance costs for Minnesotans and will continue to work with members on developing solutions to achieve this goal.

Sincerely,

·Abby Loesch

Health Policy Director
Minnesota Business Partnership