



March 31, 2023

Honorable Melissa Wiklund, Chair
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building 2107
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the delete everything (DE) amendment to SF 2995 from our unique perspective as a provider of both care and coverage services.

We first want to thank the committee and legislative leaders for the prompt action on SF 2265 to support the unwinding of the public health emergency. We are working in partnership with the Department of Human Services, counties, and other stakeholders to support the Medicaid redeterminations process and this funding will help facilitate these critical efforts.

We are also appreciative of the inclusion of the following provisions in the DE amendment:

- Investments that will help to rebuild our health care workforce including medical education.
- Funding for school-based clinics that will build on models supported by HealthPartners Park Nicollet Foundation.
- Restoration of the Medical Assistance adult dental benefit set and dental rebasing.
- Funding for hospital Medicaid rebasing.
- Continuous Medical Assistance eligibility for children.
- Financial support for doula services to improve access for Medical Assistance patients.
- Funding for Medical Resource Communications Centers that serve an essential role in coordinating emergency medical services and disaster response.
- Medical Assistance coverage for recuperative care to provide better care for homeless populations.
- Funding to improve safety in health care settings for patients, staff, and guests.
- Funding for rulemaking for residential mental health facilities like the Melrose eating disorder program.

We would like to continue to work with the committee on the following provisions:

- The nurse staffing requirements included in this proposal, which would have significant implications for patient access to care and equity.

- The carve out of pharmacy services that would jeopardize the innovative, coordinated, and whole-person care that managed care enrollees benefit from and has financial implications for our hospitals that utilize the 340B program.
- The benefit mandates and cost sharing limitations included in this proposal and the collective impact they will have on premium payers.

Thank you for your consideration of this feedback. We look forward to continued discussions on these important issues.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "C" at the end.

Barbara Cox
VP, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs