

January 28, 2023

Re:SF316 (Abeler)/HF435 (Huot)

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee,

We thank you for the opportunity to share Minnesota Social Service Association's support of SF316 to increase Medical Assistance (MA) reimbursement rates for Nonemergency medical transportation (NEMT) providers. The Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA) is made up of over 4,000 health and human service professionals statewide. Our members cover the health and human service spectrum — mental health providers, social workers, case managers, etc. — and are employed by for-profit and non-profit entities, as well as state and local government agencies.

MSSA supports the efforts to raise reimbursement rates to ensure affordable and sufficient non-emergency medical transportation for MA enrollees as outlined in SF316. NEMT provides Medical Assistance (MA) enrollees with transportation to and from nonemergency medical service appointments. This program is often the only option for MA enrollees to be able to get to and from health care appointments and is critical for those who are ill, those with disabilities, and older adults.

Stagnant NEMT reimbursement rates have caused many providers to no longer provide this service due to increased fuel, mileage, and insurance costs. Raising MA reimbursement rates will help mitigate this crisis and ensure that providers are able to continue this essential service. Most importantly, the provisions in SF316 will help ensure Minnesotans can continue to get the medical care they need.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support on behalf of our members and the clients they serve. Please reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns at [msancartier@mnssa.org](mailto:msancartier@mnssa.org).

Sincerely,

Michelle SanCartier  
Minnesota Social Service Association  
MSSA Director of Public Policy & Advocacy

Beth Ringer  
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MSSA Executive Director