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## SF4699 - Support for County Administered Rural Medical Assistance (CARMA)

April 29, 2024

Dear Senator Wiklund and Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members,

On behalf of Minnesota's three county-based purchasing (CBP) plans, owned and operated by the 33 counties they serve, we extend our appreciation for your inclusion of the **County Administered Rural Medical Assistance (CARMA) provisions (SF3372)** in your HHS Omnibus SF4699, and urge your continued support.

This legislation is the result of a year-long process of collaboration among the state's three CBP plans, in close collaboration with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).

The DHS managed care Medical Assistance procurement process has been challenging over the past decade, often resulting in lawsuits over current state law, and counties pursuing mediation over disagreements with DHS decisions. **We all believe we can and must do better together!**

We thank Senator Hoffman and the co-authors for bringing forward SF3372 which **directs DHS to work in close collaboration with the state's CBP plans and AMC to meet over the interim and develop a new and improved county-based model**, CARMA. DHS is required to bring back to the 2025 Legislature the resulting detailed implementation proposal and model legislation with the goal of enactment.

The final **CARMA proposal will highlight and build upon the 43+ years history of CBP success** at innovation, responsiveness, transparency and reinvestment in rural health care and communities. It will add **new innovations in integrating county public health, social services and other services necessary to better address Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)** -- all focused toward increasing access, achieving better outcomes for enrollees, and administering managed Medical Assistance in the most cost-effective manner.

Again, we appreciate and encourage your **continued support for the CARMA (SF3372) provisions in your Senate HHS Omnibus SF4699**. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

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cc: MACHP Board (33 counties)  
AMC, Julie Ring

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IMCare  
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