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March 5, 2024

Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
95 University Avenue W
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee,

The Minnesota Council of Health Plans (MCHP) is an association of nonprofit health plans whose mission is to get Minnesotans the affordable, equitable and quality-based care they need today and in the future. We respectfully urge your opposition to SF 4199 because it would lead to delayed access to care, duplication of services, patient frustration and increased costs.

Access to health records is already a highly regulated process under federal and state law. Federal regulations, including HIPAA, the HITECH Act and the Omnibus Privacy Rule strictly govern when, where and to whom health information can be shared. Federal laws carry serious civil and criminal penalties when their requirements are not met. State regulations, including penalties for unauthorized release or access under Minnesota Statute 144.298, also apply. SF 4199 seeks to insert yet another regulatory step on top of the existing regulations, an “extra step” that 48 other states do not deem necessary to protect private health information. A 2018 [study](#) by Avalere Health estimated that extra step would increase costs of care by more than \$606 million over ten years. That estimate does not include savings consumers would also experience by not having to pay for any associated out-of-pocket costs.

We urge your opposition to SF 4199 so Minnesota health care continues to be aligned with 48 other states in supporting cost-effective, high-quality care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucas Nesse", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Lucas Nesse
President and CEO