



March 12, 2024

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

The Committee to Protect Health Care writes to support SF4778, the MNCare Public Option and its swift, quality implementation to help Minnesotans better access the health care they need to live and thrive. As doctors and medical professionals committed to expanding access to affordable health care we believe a strong MNCare Public Option will increase access to affordable, quality health care, improving health and saving lives of generations to come.

Every day, physicians and medical professionals see how out-of-control health care costs harm patients, and how the problem is getting worse. In 2022, health care costs for Minnesotans with private insurance increased [\\$581 per capita](#). For Minnesotans enrolled in health plans through the individual markets, [about half](#) are in 'Bronze Plans' with deductibles around \$7,000 per year, meaning of course that they have to pay \$7,000 every year on top of monthly premiums, before they get coverage.

These rising health care costs are straining families' budgets, and, unfortunately, preventing patients from seeking care. [One in four](#) American adults say that they skipped or postponed getting the health care they needed in the past 12 months because of the cost.

When patients put off needed health care, their health problems become more difficult and expensive to treat, and they may even become untreatable. A patient with diabetes that could be managed with routine care may develop nerve damage, eye problems, or kidney problems. A patient with a family risk of cancer may skip a critical screening, allowing early stage cancer to worsen and spread. A pregnant person who delays care puts her health and that of her baby at risk, sometimes with lifelong impact.

Minnesotans should be able to get health care when they need it, not just when they can afford it. That's why Minnesota needs an affordable, high-quality MinnesotaCare Public Option. By ensuring more families are able to access affordable health care, Minnesota can save lives and strengthen our communities.

The Committee to Protect Health Care, including doctors and medical professionals across Minnesota, support a comprehensive MNCare Public Option implemented sooner rather than later. We urge you to do all you can to set up a strong public option program, so that Minnesota can help patients take care of their health, learn, work, and give back to their communities — creating a healthier, stronger state for us all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rob Davidson, Executive Director