

March 13, 2024

Dear Chairwoman Wiklund and Health and Human Services committee members,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) supports efforts to expand access to affordable coverage for more Minnesotans establishing a public option for Minnesotans in SF 4778.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members care for patients, families, and communities across the state. We are leaders in primary care and see it as our job to work with our teams to keep our patients healthy, address health disparities and manage our patients' chronic conditions.

We see firsthand how barriers to care impact our patients who are uninsured and underinsured. Patients are delaying or foregoing care out of fear of the cost, causing conditions to worsen before care is sought. Obviously, this leads to more suffering, worse outcomes and overall increasing the cost of care.

We believe that SF 4778 can mitigate patient access concerns by implementing a public option for health care. Ensuring that this expansion includes sustainable reimbursement rates is crucial for fostering a robust and accessible primary care system. Sustainable reimbursement rates ensure that primary care physicians and other healthcare providers receive fair compensation for their services while allowing patients access to the health care they need. This balance is essential for maintaining a strong primary care foundation, as it addresses both patient needs and practice viability.

This is the year to expand affordable coverage for Minnesotans, demonstrating a commitment to the health of the populace through a strong investment in primary care services. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Bob Jeske, MD  
President, MAFP