

April 17, 2024

Senator Melissa Wiklund
2107 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF4669 – Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill

Chair Wiklund and members of the committee,

On behalf of Allina Health, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your work and collaboration this session as we address many of the systemic challenges plaguing our healthcare continuum.

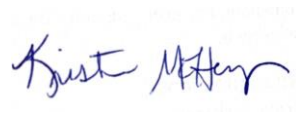
Minnesota's healthcare continuum is facing a turbulent, challenging and dynamic environment. Regulatory and administrative barriers, chronically low reimbursement rates, and workforce shortages threaten our patients' ability to access care. We are pleased to see several proactive measures to reduce barriers to care and increase access in SF4699, including:

- Increases to mental health reimbursement rates, the development or modification of MA benefits for Children's Residential Crisis Stabilization and First Episode Psychosis, and increased funding for respite grants for families
- Establishing the hospital nursing educational loan forgiveness program
- Allowing hospitals to be designated as thrombectomy-capable stroke centers
- Requiring equitable health plan coverage for orthotic and prosthetic devices

While we support these provisions and many others, there are several proposals included in SF4699 that raise significant concerns as to their impact on patients, providers, and our entire healthcare continuum. This includes implementing a public option without fully addressing the chronically low and unsustainable reimbursement rates for Medicaid and Medicare, establishing a new medical record fee retrieval structure that does not account for cost of retrieval for providers, and adding additional reporting requirements for the 340B Covered Entities Report in a condensed timeline – among others. We urge the committee to withdraw these proposals from the omnibus package until their true impact on our continuum is fully understood.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to continuing to work with the committee to address barriers to patient care in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kristen McHenry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Above the signature, there is a faint, light blue rectangular stamp that appears to contain the text "OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL" and "STATE OF MINNESOTA".

Kristen McHenry
Director of Public Affairs
Allina Health

