



April 18, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I am writing to comment on three provisions related to the omnibus HHS bill—two that are included and one that is not.

Thank you for including **SF 3531 (Morrison)**. This is legislation to address physician wellbeing and burnout. The language will prohibit health system credentialing applications from inquiring about an applicant's mental health conditions. These questions have no impact on a physician's ability to practice and discourage physicians from seeking treatment. Additionally, the legislation allocates critical funds to increase access to mental health services for physicians. The bill also provide protections to physicians who participate in the SafeHaven program that addresses work-life balance and burnout, and it provides a one-time grant to reduce the stigma for physicians and other healthcare professionals to receive mental health care when they need it.

Thank you for including **SF 610 (Bolden)**. This language will allow child care centers to require fully vaccinated status of all attendees older than 2 months old, unless there is a medical exemption to being vaccinated. Most childhood vaccinations and boosters occur between 2 months of age and 2 years of age. By removing the non-medical exemption for child care centers and family child care programs, the rates of fully vaccinated children in our communities will increase.

Finally, the MMA is very disappointed that **SF 3532 (Morrison)** is not included in the bill. This bill provides targeted limits on the use of prior authorization. Too many Minnesotans experience dangerous delays in care due to unnecessary and unwarranted prior authorization requirements. A broad coalition of provider groups, health systems, patient advocacy organizations, and others, strongly support legislation to prohibit prior authorization for services where a delay in care leads to serious negative patient health outcomes. These include treatments for substance use disorder, outpatient mental health, cancer, and chronic conditions, among others. Delays to these services leads to severe negative health outcomes, including death. The MMA deeply regrets that there was no language included in the omnibus bill to address any concerns raised about prior authorization this session. I strongly encourage you to support amendments to the bill to address these barriers to care.

Thank you for taking these comments into serious consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Ries, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association