



April 16, 2024

Sen. John Hoffman  
Room 2111, Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Ave W  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: SF 5335 Human Services Omnibus Budget Bill**

Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members:

I am writing in support of various provisions included in your human services omnibus budget bill.

Hennepin Healthcare System is Minnesota's largest Medicaid provider system and safety-net level I trauma hospital with primary care clinics across Hennepin County. When patients cannot discharge from our hospital, the Emergency Department (ED) backs up with "boarders" waiting for an inpatient bed. As a result, we end up turning away trauma and other patients in the ED, patients remaining in our hospital far longer than appropriate, and patients decompensating mentally and physically due to being in the wrong level of care.

As such, we are grateful for the inclusion of the **priority admissions modifications** (SF 4460) that will include consideration of the medical acuity of patients for state operated services. Thank you for also including the **hospital admission exception to current priority admission** for ten patients that have been waiting in hospital settings to be admitted. This will provide immediate pressure relief for hospitals and help patients access the services they need.

Thank you for including **funding for acute care transitions for people with disabilities and complex health conditions** as well as the **Pediatric Hospital-to-Home Transition Pilot Program** (SF 4094). These efforts will help ensure smooth transitions between acute care settings and home and community-based settings for patients who no longer need a hospital level of care. Additionally, we are supportive of the extension from 60 days to 365 days for the validity of MnCHOICES assessments.

Lastly, we are fully supportive of **providing medical assistance coverage to incarcerated individuals prior to reentry to the community** by requiring the Commissioner of Human Services to apply for an 1115 reentry waiver. Without access to high quality, affordable healthcare services during and after incarceration, individuals will remain at high risk of poor health outcomes and death.

Please consider moving the implementation date for the Opioid Treatment Program rate modification, that passed last year, to January 1 of 2025.

I am grateful for your support of these critical legislative proposals that will make a difference for patients across the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer DeCubellis'.

Jennifer DeCubellis  
Chief Executive Officer  
Hennepin Healthcare System

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