



March 25, 2025

The Honorable Matt Klein
Chair, Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Minnesota Senate
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2477 and SF 2498 and their impacts on Medigap consumer protection

Dear Chair Klein and members:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) wishes to register its opposition to SF 2498, and its view on elements of SF 2477 that could put some Minnesotans at a relative disadvantage when enrolling in a Medicare supplemental (Medigap) plan starting in plan year 2026.

LLS supports the state law, passed in 2023, that created an annual open enrollment period for all Medigap enrollees regardless of whether they have a preexisting condition. While LLS appreciates the efforts of the Commerce Department to sustain these preexisting condition protections for Medigap enrollees, we are concerned that the introduction of a 10% late-enrollment surcharge in perpetuity would place an arbitrary and imbalanced burden on sicker Minnesotans. We encourage lawmakers and Commerce officials to seek a more flexible and less permanent mechanism to address premium concerns and hold patients harmless for their medical conditions.

This is the last year that Minnesota insurers may use medical underwriting to deny Medigap coverage or charge vastly higher premiums to would-be enrollees after a one-time enrollment window closes during the first six months of Medicare eligibility. Without Medigap coverage, patients could face tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket expenses each year under traditional Medicare or a Medicare Advantage plan whose use of prior authorization, claims denials and narrow networks can limit patients' access to specialty care.¹ For these reasons, we recommend your committee reject SF 2498 in favor of a balanced solution that protects blood cancer patients more effectively.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with the Committee and the Commerce Department to find a solution that works for patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Bacon".

Dana Bacon
Senior Director, State Government Affairs
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¹ Kantarjian, H., et al. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*. "Traditional Medicare or Medicare Advantage? The Leukemia and Cancer Perspective." January 2024. [https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(23\)00552-9/fulltext](https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(23)00552-9/fulltext)