



February 25, 2025

Senator Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate Building, #2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for S.F. 1402 (Wiklund) – MA Rate Increases for Physician and Professional Services

Dear Chair Wiklund,

Created in 1994, the MRHA has grown to be a recognized advocate for rural health in Minnesota. Our mission is to strengthen health care for rural Minnesotans. On behalf of our nearly 200 members, we share our support for an increase in MA rates for physician and professional services.

As a rural health advocate, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by rural communities in accessing quality healthcare. This bill is a crucial step towards addressing these challenges and ensuring that all Minnesotans, regardless of their geographic location, have access to the medical care they need.

Rural healthcare providers often operate with limited resources and face unique obstacles, such as higher operational costs and difficulties in recruiting and retaining medical professionals. These challenges are exacerbated by the current reimbursement rates, which do not adequately reflect the costs of providing care in rural areas. Senate File 1402 addresses this issue by adjusting the medical assistance rates, thereby providing much-needed financial support to rural healthcare providers.

By supporting this bill, you are not only helping to sustain rural healthcare but also ensuring that rural residents receive timely and appropriate medical care. This is particularly important for vulnerable populations, such as the elderly and those with chronic conditions, who rely heavily on local healthcare services.

In conclusion, I urge you and your colleagues to support Senate File 1402. This bill is essential for the health and well-being of rural Minnesotans and will help to create a more equitable healthcare system for all. If you have any questions regarding MRHA's position, feel free to contact me at mark@mnruralhealth.org or 218-201-0098.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MTJ', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Mark T. Jones
Executive Director