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Senate File 333 (Dahms)

Chair Wiklund and Senate Health and Human Services Committee Members -

The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) represents over 10,000 small and independently owned businesses across Minnesota. Our mission is to promote and protect the rights of our members to own, operate, and grow their businesses.

NFIB Minnesota supports Senate File 333, which continues and provides crucial funding for Minnesota's highly successful individual health insurance market reinsurance program. This program has been instrumental for small business owners and their employees, who often rely on the individual market for health insurance coverage.

Instability and rising premiums in the individual market can have a cascading effect, impacting not only individuals, but also both the small and large group markets. However, the reinsurance program has successfully reversed years of double-digit premium hikes and halted a significant decline in the number of people insured through the market. As a result, Minnesotans purchasing insurance on the individual market are currently benefiting from an average premium reduction of 20%.

However, absent action to restore funding, premiums are estimated to increase by 25%, making insurance coverage less affordable for small business owners and their employees who will lose coverage and access to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. We strongly urge the committee to support Senate File 333.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Boesche'.

Jon Boesche
Minnesota State Director
National Federation of Independent Business
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