

April 1, 2025

**Dear Senator Wiklund and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee**

On behalf of Northwestern Health Sciences University, I am writing to express our strong support for SF 595. We are a national leader in person-centered healthcare education offering a diverse range of evidence-informed programs including chiropractic, acupuncture, massage therapy and undergraduate health sciences.

The modest expansion of coverage for chiropractic services in the Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare programs will provide greater access to nonpharmacologic care for low-income or vulnerable adults who are often disproportionately burdened by chronic pain.

Chiropractic doctors provide clinically effective care to patients with highly prevalent musculoskeletal problems such as back and neck pain, which are the leading causes of disability and a top cost driver in the healthcare system.

Across Minnesota, they provide care in settings ranging from small, independent practices to large health systems and Federally Qualified Health Centers. They are an important component of the healthcare workforce, especially in rural communities with limited access to other primary care services.

Peer-reviewed research and industry reports suggest that early chiropractic treatment for spine-related pain leads to better outcomes, lower total costs, and high patient satisfaction. Notably, for back pain, practice guidelines published by the American College of Physicians and the CDC recommend using nonpharmacologic treatment methods commonly provided by chiropractors.

By expanding coverage for chiropractic services in Minnesota's public insurance programs, we can improve healthcare access, reduce reliance on costly and low value clinical interventions, and provide individuals with the opportunity to receive high-quality, guideline-concordant nonpharmacologic care. This expansion would not only enhance patient outcomes but also support the broader goal of improving public health and reducing healthcare costs for the state.

Sincerely,



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