



We, the undersigned, write to express our strong support for a one-time appropriation of public funds to expand Minnesota's community care hub. This initiative presents a unique and timely opportunity to invest in the health and well-being of our communities by enabling the existing hub to offer even more essential services to residents in need.

An Innovative National Model

Community care hubs are a national model championed by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Administration for Community Living that aims to build the infrastructure necessary to align clinical care and social care. These hubs combine health care with the social support we all need to thrive—healthy food, access to transportation and socialization to name a few.

The Juniper community care hub, spearheaded by Trellis in Minnesota, has become a national model by integrating social care with healthcare to provide tailored services that meet local needs, leveraging trusted relationships with local community and healthcare organizations, and driving value for patients, healthcare providers, health insurers and public organizations. Juniper was one of the country's first community care hubs operating centralized functions and is often referenced as a model for newer hubs.

Improving Health Outcomes

A one-time appropriation of \$9.9 million would provide the necessary funding to expand and sustain Minnesota's community care hub. The expanded hub would significantly reduce barriers to access, allowing residents—especially those in underserved or rural areas—to receive comprehensive support without the challenges of navigating multiple systems. Imagine what services like transportation, chores and home modifications could do if properly targeted alongside healthcare treatments during an episode of care, such as surgery recovery or a diagnosis of a chronic disease.

Reducing State Healthcare Spending

A one-time investment will pay long-term dividends to the state. By focusing on prevention, early intervention and coordinated care, the expanded community care hub will help reduce future healthcare costs, decrease emergency room visits and improve public health outcomes. These preventative measures will:



- Allow Minnesotans to live longer in their homes while delaying the spenddown into Medicaid.
- Position community-based organizations to provide interventions to target populations if we share a hub infrastructure that enables us to access new payment methods.
- Reduce the stress on our healthcare system by reducing the rise of acute care incidents.

The community care hub will serve as a catalyst for lasting positive change in Minnesota, creating a foundation for healthier, more resilient communities. An initial appropriation will empower the hub to seek additional funding from both public and private partnerships, ensuring long-term sustainability.

Investing in All Minnesotans

We strongly encourage you to support this one-time appropriation and the expansion of Minnesota's community care hub. It is an investment that will yield significant returns for the health, stability and prosperity of our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. We look forward to your support for this forward-looking initiative.

Signed,



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