

April 22, 2025

Dear Chair Rest and members,

On behalf of our more than 3,100 family physician and medical student members, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians (MAFP) thanks you for your consideration of the omnibus health and human services budget bill.

The MAFP is the largest physician specialty society in Minnesota, and our members take care of patients, families and communities across the state. We are leaders in primary care and see it as our job to work with our teams to keep our patients healthy, address health disparities and manage our patients' chronic conditions. Minnesota must look for ways to invest more in primary care – focusing on the management of chronic conditions, preventative care and addressing Minnesotans' social drivers of health – creating a robust primary care infrastructure. Many of the provisions in this omnibus bill share that focus.

Below are the key issues that MAFP was encouraged to see in the bill:

#### **Medical Assistance rate reimbursement**

The underfunding of primary care affects patients' access and ability to get the care they need in their communities; low Medicaid reimbursement rates compound this issue. Ensuring primary care medical assistance rates are at least in line with the Medicare rate will help ensure that patients have access to primary care across the state.

#### **Mid-Year formulary disruptions**

Restriction of mid-year formulary changes will make a big impact for patients and their health care teams. The unacceptable disruption to care caused by these changes is frustrating for both patients and physicians and can be dangerous for patients. We work hard in partnership with our patients to ensure they have the treatment that works best for them so that they can live their healthiest lives. Mid-year formulary changes get in the way of these efforts and result in unnecessary barriers to care.

#### **Audio-only telehealth**

Family physicians take care of Minnesotans across the state and across their lifespans. Ensuring audio-only telehealth is a reimbursable option allows patients with technology barriers to still have remote access to their physician. This flexibility allows patients to get the care they need regardless of their access to broadband or their comfort with technology.

### **Interpreter access workgroup**

Access to quality interpreter service is an important component of providing quality health care to all Minnesotans. The establishment of a workgroup to address the barriers to interpreter service is an important step to ensuring access to care.

We look forward to engaging with you and your colleagues as your work continues and are grateful for our shared commitment to the health of all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roli Dwivedi". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Roli Dwivedi, MD, FAAFP  
President, MAFP