To: Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

Minnesota is currently enabling a discriminatory system of care for the majority of Medical Assistance patients. HF816 would end this discrimination. All, rather than just a small percentage of Medical Assistance patients, would be given the option to choose their own health care providers rather than being restricted to providers chosen by managed care organizations. Instead of the “one size fits all” approach implemented by managed care, patients could choose providers who are compatible with and sensitive to their cultures’ values and personal values. All patients deserve the dignity of choosing their health care providers themselves.

Instead of restricted free choice to only some Medical Assistance patients, HF816 would make this choice available to all MA patients, if they elect to exercise it. It is, quite simply, the right and fair way to provide for patients’ health care needs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dave Crawford, St. Paul, MN

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