



March 25, 2022

Representative Liebling, Chair
Health Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. We are a leader in both the labor and health care communities and a voice for our members on issues relating to the professional, economic and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

While not an exhaustive list, this letter is an initial listing of the pieces of the Walz-Flanagan Health and Human Services budgets in HF 4398 and HF 4576 that the Minnesota Nurses Association would like to weigh in on at this time.

In HF 4398, which contains the Minnesota Department of Health budget proposals, MNA is supportive of initiatives that help promote health equity and that work to make sure that Minnesotans are as healthy as they can be. To that end, we are supportive of these proposals:

- **Public Health Workforce:** we are interested in the public health worker loan forgiveness program, the public health student stipend program, and funds to support a new Public Health AmeriCorps Program.
- **Revitalize Health Care Workforce:** we are particularly interested in the money to support workforce research, research that would provide needed information on status and causes of workforce shortages, maldistribution of health care providers in Minnesota, and determinants of practicing in rural areas.

MNA is an advocate for a single-payer healthcare system because we believe that healthcare should be accessible to all Minnesotans, without exception. Everyday nurses see the consequences of a system designed to prioritize profits over the care of people. As such, we support proposals in HF 4576, the Minnesota Department of Human Services budget proposals, that work towards making sure Minnesotans have access to things like food, health care coverage, and that there are adequate staff to help care for Minnesotans who need it.

We are supportive of the following proposals:

- Workforce Revitalization
- Responding to COVID-19 in Minnesota Health Care Programs
- Coverage for Undocumented Children in the MnCare program
- Continuous MA Eligibility for Children under 21

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- Tribal Food Sovereignty
- Food Support Grants
- Expanding Children's Inpatient Psychiatric and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility Beds
- Expanding Support for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)
- Expanding First Episode Psychosis (FEP) and Developing an Emerging Mood Disorders Program
- Children's Mental Health Community of Practice
- Expanding Mobile Crisis Grants and Transition to Community Initiative
- Rate Increase for Adult Day Treatment Services
- Opioid Grant Program
- Housing Support for Adults with Serious Mental Illness Program Expansion
- Direct Care and Treatment Electronic Health Record
- SEIU Healthcare Bargaining

We look forward to continuing to work with the administration, the author, and this committee on the proposals in these two bills so we can promote health and well-being for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

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Minnesota Nurses Association

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