March 1, 2022

Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Commerce Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the Minnesota Medical Group Management Association (MMGMA). MMGMA is a statewide membership organization with nearly 500 members, representing organizations that provide health care procedures and services to patients throughout the state. Membership also includes business partners who help to provide efficiency and effectiveness to health care practice operations.

MMGMA enthusiastically supports HF1936. HF1936 is a bill that would benefit patients and healthcare providers alike. This bill would ensure that if a contract between a health care provider and a health plan company is terminated, it is terminated for cause which the provider may appeal. Prohibiting health plan companies from terminating providers without cause ensures that patients can see the provider of their choice.

* **The Benefit to Patients.** This bill would ensure a continuity of care for patients and helps patients retain local care options. When health plans terminate a contract with a provider without cause, a patient can lose access to their preferred health care provider for any reason. Given the current strains on the health care system, patients should not be limited in their access to providers based on a termination that is not for cause. This bill protects patient access to their preferred provider by ensuring that qualified providers are only terminated for cause.
* **The Benefit to Providers.** This bill is important to health care providers because it makes a simple fact clear—a contract is a contract—and it should be honored as such. Health plan companies can terminate a contract with a health care provider with or without cause and without any appeals process. For clinics the termination of these contracts can mean they have to close their medical practices. When health plan companies have the ability to make unilateral changes to health plans an appeals process is necessary to protect providers and patients.

MMGMA believes that HF1936 would benefit both health care providers and their patients because it would prevent health plan companies from terminating contracts without cause. This would allow patients to continue to see their preferred provider, and it would prevent unnecessary strain on the health care system that can come with terminations of contracts.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Foley

MMGMA President