



March 29, 2022

To: Members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee

From: This is Medicaid Coalition Members

RE: HF4615 / 12-Month Continuous Eligibility for Under 21 Medical Assistance Recipients

Dear Chair Lieblich and Committee Members,

This Is Medicaid (TIM) is a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of more than 50 advocacy, direct service, and faith-based member organizations from across Minnesota partnering to protect and improve Medicaid. A core value of TIM is that we believe Minnesotans should be able to get the health care they need, when and where they need it. This is why our coalition is writing in support of HF 4615. As you may be aware, Medicaid “churn” refers to the repeated dropping off of Medical Assistance (MA) due to problems with redetermination or small eligibility changes, only to re-enroll months later. This process is a chronic problem that causes costly disruptions in access to care for Minnesota children and adults and the providers and state agencies that serve them. This bill would offer a solution to this problem for Minnesotans under the age of 21.

We know this legislation is needed because during the pandemic, new monthly MA applications dropped off dramatically. This was due to Minnesota’s compliance with federal requirements to not dis-enroll people during the public health emergency. This drop-off in new applications demonstrates how many of Minnesota’s typical monthly MA applications are due to churn. When pre-pandemic eligibility processes resume, we can expect a massive spike given the large number of renewals to process and the long time-lapse since last contact with many enrollees. HF 4615 would smooth that transition and implement the eligibility lessons of the pandemic.

This is Medicaid (TIM) Coalition strongly urges the committee to support HF 4615.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at thisismedicaid@gmail.com

Sincerely,

This Is Medicaid

This Is Medicaid is a diverse coalition of nonpartisan organizations from across Minnesota partnering to strengthen and protect Medicaid. Our member organizations advocate for or directly serve people who receive health care and supports through Medicaid, called Medical Assistance in Minnesota.

Find us at www.thisismedicaid.org and on Facebook and Twitter.