



Medicaid Continuous Eligibility

HF4706 Article 3 Section 16

Medicaid “churn” - people being repeatedly dropped off of Medical Assistance (MA) due to problems with redetermination or small eligibility changes, only to re-enroll months later – 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.

Article 3 section 16 would mean that individuals aged 20 or younger, once determined eligible for MA, would be eligible for a full twelve months, without the threat of losing coverage due to changes such as small fluctuations in income or issues with periodic data matching. 34 states already offer this for children, and at least two states offer it for all enrollees through a demonstration project (MT and NY).

Continuous eligibility for children protects them from being dropped from coverage due to system or parental error, and encourages parental confidence in scheduling and keeping medical, dental, and mental health appointments with trusted providers. Continuous eligibility is also a tool to reduce health disparities. The recent DHS report “Building Racial Equity into the Walls of Minnesota Medicaid” recommends continuous eligibility for 72 months up to age 6 and 24 months for older enrollees.

We encourage you to support Article 3 Section 16, and to also consider expanding continuous eligibility to all MA enrollees. Continuous eligibility for all MA enrollees strengthens the benefit to children through continuity of family coverage, offers an off-ramp to adults transitioning to better paying jobs, and stabilizes access to mental health care and critical medications for vulnerable adults.