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Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Distinguished Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

The Land Stewardship Project strongly opposes HF 10, which would commit Minnesota to transitioning from the MNSure system to a federally facilitated marketplace for individual health insurance. Without question, the operation of MNSure has caused difficulty and frustration for many Minnesotans, and we support efforts to improve MNSure so it functions smoothly. However, we urge you to consider the following significant problems with the specific proposal in HF 10:

1) Significant uncertainty at the federal level

The future of the Affordable Care Act is currently up for debate at the federal level, and there is significant uncertainty about what coverage, affordability measures, and the federal marketplace itself will look like in a year. The federal exchange may no longer exist. Transitioning to a federal system at this time is extremely unwise.

2) Eliminating MNSure threatens to destroy MinnesotaCare

MinnesotaCare is a critical part of our state's healthcare system, having provided affordable coverage and ensured quality care to low-income Minnesotans for 25 years. It currently serves 100,000 Minnesotans well. Transitioning to a federal marketplace, thereby eliminating MNSure, almost certainly would destroy MinnesotaCare. The eligibility system for MinnesotaCare is tied up with MNSure, and the federal government has not been willing to allow states the flexibility with the federal exchange that would be needed for MinnesotaCare to work.

Any attempt to move to a federal marketplace must ensure that MinnesotaCare can continue to provide needed coverage to Minnesotans. This proposal does not appear to do that.

Thank you for considering these important concerns with HF 10.

Sincerely,

Paul Sobocinski
Land Stewardship Project