

March 16, 2023

Re: Support for a MinnesotaCare Public Option (HF96)

Dear Chair Lieblich and Members of the Committee:

We write to express our strong support for establishing a MinnesotaCare Public Option (HF96). Across race, income, and zip code every person deserves access to healthcare. We know that our families, economy, and local communities are stronger when we all have access to truly affordable, high-quality healthcare that supports our health and wellbeing.

That's why we support a MinnesotaCare Public Option, to allow more Minnesotans to access the affordable, comprehensive healthcare they need.

Established in 1992 through bipartisan leadership, MinnesotaCare is affordable and high-quality healthcare that we fund together through state, federal, and enrollee contributions.

This bill would:

- **Expand access to affordable healthcare** by allowing middle-income Minnesotans struggling to afford high deductible plans on the individual market and small group market to buy-in to MinnesotaCare through a public option.
- **Expand eligibility** to include undocumented Minnesotans currently excluded from Minnesota Health Care Programs.
- **Offer temporary assistance** to help individuals and small businesses afford healthcare while the public option is being implemented.
- **Create a path toward alternative care delivery systems** that will work with providers to improve health outcomes, health equity, and access while maintaining affordability for the state and enrollees.

We believe that healthcare should be people-centered, include everyone, and not be dependent on employment. A vast majority of Minnesotans agree, with 91 percent saying that they believe the government should expand insurance options so that everyone can afford quality care (Healthcare Value Hub Survey, Nov. 2020).

We urge you to support truly affordable, high-quality healthcare for every Minnesotan. Please vote to support the expansion of MinnesotaCare through HF96/SF49.

Signed,

AARP
AFSCME Council 5
AFSCME Council 65
Black Immigrant Collective
Children's Defense Fund Minnesota
CURE
Committee to Protect Healthcare
East Central Area Labor Center
Education Minnesota
Episcopal Church in Minnesota
Faith in Minnesota
Health Access Minnesota
Immigrant Welcoming Working Group, Plymouth Congregational Church
Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)
ISAIAH
Land Stewardship Project
Main Street Alliance
Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs (MCLA)
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Farmers Union
Minnesota Public Health Association
Northeast Labor Area Council
OutFront Minnesota
Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD Action Fund
Rural Organizing Project of ISAIAH
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa
SEIU Minnesota State Council
Southeast Minnesota Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Springboard for the Arts
TakeAction Minnesota
Unidos MN
Voices for Racial Justice
West Area Labor Council