Mr. Sande:

Please publish the attached document to the website for the Health Finance and Policy Committee and provide it for each of that Committee’s members for the hearing on February 9, 2023.  Please also include my remarks below.

Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

I an a citizen activist and belong to a group, Health Policy Advocates; we want HF816 enacted to restore fair and equal access to preferred health care providers for all Medical Assistance patients.  Representative Liebling agreed to be the chief author of this bill last year, has agreed to co-author it this year. Representative Hicks is carrying the bill this year.   This bill rights a wrong which the state is currently imposing on the majority of Medical Assistance patients.

This bill restores to them the Freedom to Choose the health care providers they want to treat their health conditions.  Why does the State Through the Depart. Of Human Services discriminates against the majority of Medical Assistance patients by requiring them to be under the supervision of a managed care organization (MCO)?  There are already two options for Medical Assistance Patients; MCOs and Fee For Service thru DHS. Fee For Service Allows the patient to select Culturally sensitive Health Services. Who is DHS working for?. Some us have tried for years to get the DHS Medicaid Program Audited using Generally Accepted Accounting Practices. Though required by State and Federal Law this has not happen in 30 years.

Please support this simple change to allow patients the choice. I understand that the DFS create the Fee For Service Option for the sicker and more expensive Patients that the Insurance Companies do not want.

For those patients who do not want to be under managed care organization supervision, this bill is liberating.  HF816 will give them the same right which the state has granted to only a minority.   Please end the unfair discrimination by voting for HF816, the Freedom to Choose bill.

Sincerely,

John Kolsad/President, Mill City Music Minneapolis