

February 21, 2021

Dear Chair Liebling, and other distinguished members of the Minnesota Legislature:

I am writing to you to personally express support for HF1268.

At HealthPartners, we have found that the burden of psychosocial conditions for our member population is exceeded only by musculoskeletal conditions. Anxiety and depression are the most frequent psychosocial diagnoses. Note, in bold in the abstract, that our members insured through Medicaid suffer more than those who are insured by a commercial product or Medicare. Many of these individuals live in District 64.

Kottke TE, Gallagher JM, Lowry MJ, et al. The Health and Well-being of an ACO Population. *Am J Manag Care*. 2019;25(4):294-300.

OBJECTIVES: To identify opportunities to improve the health and well-being of members of HealthPartners, a health plan based in Minnesota.

STUDY DESIGN: Cross-sectional analysis of insurance claims, death records, and survey data.

METHODS: We calculated a current health score from insurance claims and death records for all 754,584 members 18 years and older who met inclusion and exclusion criteria for the period January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015, and/or January 1, 2016, to December 31, 2016. Adjusting responses to represent the member population, we calculated a future health score based on 7 items and a 1-item well-being score from survey data that we collected between July 1, 2015, and December 31, 2016.

RESULTS: Forty-four percent of the loss to the current health score among HealthPartners members is attributable to musculoskeletal, psychosocial, and neurologic conditions. Among the 7 components of the future health score, the greatest opportunity for improvement (31% of the total potential) is increasing dietary fruits and vegetables. Although 42% of the members reported high levels of wellbeing, 14% reported low levels. **On average, members with the lowest levels of well-being were insured by a Medicaid product and had low educational achievement.**

CONCLUSIONS: By applying the summary measures of health and well-being to the HealthPartners member population, we identified opportunities to address conditions that created a high burden on current health, opportunities to improve prospects for future health, and subpopulations who would benefit from interventions that would increase their sense of well-being.

Of course, Covid-19 has markedly increased the need for mental health services. I ask that you support HF 1268 in order to help give more of Minnesota's children and families the healthy beginning they deserve.

Thank you,

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