

Jan. 31, 2019

Dear policymaker,

One in five Minnesotansⁱ depend on public health care programs that are funded in part by the Health Care Access Fund. Ensuring access to quality health care is a long-held Minnesota value. We write in support of the Minnesotans who could lose access to vital care without the continuation of this fund.

The Health Care Access Fund was established, through a bipartisan effort, to increase access to health care, contain health care costs, and improve the quality of health care services for Minnesotans. This program is vital to Minnesota's health care safety-net and supports MinnesotaCare, Medical Assistance, quality improvement initiatives, and public health prevention strategies.

The provider tax is the largest source of revenue to the Health Care Access Fund but is scheduled to sunset in December 2019. Allowing the provider tax to expire without identifying dedicated future funding would jeopardize access to health care for thousands of Minnesotans and threaten prevention programs needed to curb rising health care costs. Minnesota, through this conversation, is presented with an opportunity to discuss the continued support for the programs funded by the Health Care Access Fund.

The more than 50 undersigned organizations are writing to express support for continued funding for the Health Care Access Fund.

We thank you for your past support for efforts to improve health care access for Minnesotans and we urge you to work towards finding a long-term and sustainable source of funding to support the Health Care Access Fund. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A.C.E. of SW Minnesota

Allina Health

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

Arthritis Foundation

AspireMN

Association of Minnesota Counties

Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Christ the King Lutheran Community Health Initiative

City of Bloomington/Public Health Division

Clare Housing

Community Health Organization

Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services

Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota

Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare

Goodhue County Health and Human Services

Goodhue County Live Well

Hardwick Fire and Rescue
Hennepin County
Hennepin Healthcare
Horizon Public Health
Itasca County Public Health
JustUs Health
Kandiyohi County
Kenyon Community Garden
Living Well Disability Services
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota
Metropolitan Center For Independent Living (MCIL)
Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA)
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC)
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Minnesota Community Care
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Minnesota Medical Association
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Pine County Public Health
Proof Alliance (formerly MOFAS)
Scott County Public Health
Sherburne County
Southwest Health & Human Services
St. Louis County
The Arc Minnesota
The City of Minneapolis
The Kenyon Leader Newspaper
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Twin Cities Medical Society
Western Mental Health Center

ⁱ “Medicaid Matters” report. Page 16. <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/docs/2018/other/180391.pdf>. Accessed 1/3/2019.