



February 5, 2021

Representative Zack Stephenson
Chair, Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota State House
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Stephenson and Honorable Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to demonstrate our support for House File 11, a bill that would expand affordable health care for Minnesotans via MinnesotaCare. Our state has a history of investing in health care, healthy communities, and the well-being of Minnesotans. **House File 11 represents one more step toward ensuring all Minnesotans can get access to the affordable health care they need to thrive.**

House File 11 builds on Minnesota's history of pursuing the goal that all Minnesotans should be able to access the health care they need when they need it. That's good policy. House File 11 provides a new option for Minnesotans to purchase affordable, comprehensive health care and also addresses existing barriers to affordable health care in the health care market. As you know, MinnesotaCare would continue as it currently exists, with the addition of an option for individuals with income levels above the current eligibility cap to opt in to MinnesotaCare and pay premiums on a sliding scale. Additionally, the bill addresses current barriers to affordable health care, like the so-called "family glitch" that prevents some families from getting help affording their health insurance, and ensures that Minnesotans have options for health care coverage, regardless of their immigration status.

As a membership organization of over 2,200 nonprofit members, **the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits also supports House File 11 because it provides an additional health insurance option for small Minnesota employers** who often currently face expensive and limited coverage options. The ability to provide affordable, quality health insurance is an important way to maintain the nonprofit sector as an attractive place to work. We know that too many nonprofits, especially smaller and rural nonprofits, struggle to offer affordable health insurance to their employees – people who do essential work to strengthen our communities every day.

Improving access to health care would help address racial disparities in health outcomes and is especially important during a global pandemic. Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) Minnesotans are less likely to have health care coverage and are also being disproportionately harmed

by COVID-19. Broadening affordable coverage options could help address Minnesota's shameful racial disparities and improve health outcomes for those facing the greatest barriers.

We urge you to expand access to affordable health care by supporting House File 11. Please contact Marie Ellis (mellis@minnesotanonprofits.org) or Nan Madden (nmadden@mnbudgetproject.org) if there is any additional information we can provide.

Sincerely,

Marie Ellis
Public Policy Director
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits

Nan Madden
Director
Minnesota Budget Project

The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits is an association of over 2,000 nonprofit members from every part of the state and every area of nonprofit activity.

The Minnesota Budget Project, an initiative of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, identifies and promotes public policies so that economic security is available to all Minnesotans, regardless of who they are or where they live.

Cc: Members, Minnesota House of Representatives Commerce Finance and Policy Committee