

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	Christ the King Lutheran Community Health Initiative
Allina Health	City of Bloomington/Public Health Division
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	Clare Housing
American Heart Association	Community Health Organization
Arthritis Foundation	Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services
AspireMN	Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
Association of Minnesota Counties	Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
Catholic Charities of St. Paul & Minneapolis	Goodhue County Health and Human Services
Christ the King Lutheran Church, Bloomington	Goodhue County Live Well

Hardwick Fire and Rescue	Minnesota Community Care
Hennepin County	Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities
Hennepin Healthcare	Minnesota Medical Association
Horizon Public Health	Minnesota Public Health Association
Itasca County Public Health	Minnesota Speech-Language-Hearing Association
JustUs Health	Pine County Public Health
Kandiyohi County	Proof Alliance (formerly MOFAS)
Kenyon Community Garden	Scott County Public Health
Living Well Disability Services	Sherburne County
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota	Southwest Health & Human Services
Metropolitan Center For Independent Living (MCIL)	St. Louis County
Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA)	The Arc Minnesota
Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians	The City of Minneapolis
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC)	The Kenyon Leader Newspaper
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance	The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	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.