

February 20, 2025

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



State of Minnesota

The Honorable Brad Finstad
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
2418 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michelle Fischbach
Congresswoman
United States House of Representatives
2229 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Stephanie Carlton
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

The Honorable Tom Emmer
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber
Congressman
United States House of Representatives
145 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 2051

Re: proposed Medicaid reductions

Dear Mr. President, Congressman Emmer, Congressman Finstad, Congresswoman Fischbach, Congressman Stauber, and Ms. Carlton,

Minnesota has been a leader in providing access to care and containing costs and now stands vulnerable to unworkable funding reductions with some of what is being proposed in the federal budget. A move to a per capita cap or block grant program will be workable if the reduction is modest, manageable and accompanied by extreme flexibility. Too deep of a cut is unmanageable in any instance.

Innovation is occurring in Minnesota within the current financing and waiver structure. We are moving people with disabilities into greater independence. Massive Medicaid reductions could punish Minnesota for being such a strong leader in greater efficiencies and better outcomes. It would devastate already lean areas of service we have been working to make more efficient for many years.

As Republican leaders in Minnesota, we have been partners for designing a state Health and Human Services (HHS) system that meets the needs of our great state.

Just to emphasize what you already know, Medicaid includes services and care for the seniors and those with disabilities, not just health care for the poor. Additionally, nearly 50% of all Medicaid enrollees are children. Given some of the large numbers coming out of Washington, we are concerned

that there is no practical way to accommodate some of the proposed massive reductions and still provide the kind of care these vulnerable people require.

Drastic reductions to Medicaid funding have the potential to impact the 1.4 million people we serve and place incredible pressure on our overall state budget. There are no other sources to make up the lost federal share beyond severely impacting the seniors and those with disabilities who we serve. This is contrary to how we Republicans respect the aged and the vulnerable.

Deep reductions beyond what we can absorb will also put a major strain on the state's ability to support our county-based infrastructure. In our county-based service model, via the property tax, counties already pay very significant shares of human services costs, including child protection, waiver management, chemical dependency, mental health, and state facility stays, and have little capacity to absorb any significant additional cost.

The only choices available are being forced to raise local property taxes drastically or close services.

Finally, healthcare is a major employer in rural Minnesota. Reductions in already-too-low reimbursement rates would not only limit access but would also reduce pay and services, hugely impacting rural economies and the rapidly growing aging population in Greater Minnesota.

Please remind our good leaders in Washington that simply cutting the budget is not going to take away our responsibilities to the aged, those with disabilities and mental health needs, children, and the poor.

You can make a difference in this debate. Please, please do.

Respectfully,



Senator Jim Abeler
Minnesota State Senator
District 35



Senator Bill Lieske
Minnesota State Senator
District 58



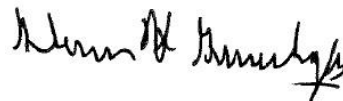
Senator Mark Koran
Minnesota State Senator
District 28



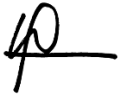
Senator Carla Nelson
Minnesota State Senator
District 24



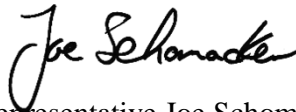
Senator Paul Utke
Minnesota State Senator
District 5



Senator Glenn Gruenhagen
Minnesota State Senator
District 17



Representative Danny Nadeau
Minnesota State Representative
District 34A



Representative Joe Schomacker
Minnesota State Representative
District 21A



Representative Jeff Backer
Minnesota State Representative
District 09A



Representative Aaron Repinski
Minnesota State Representative
District 26A



Representative Joe McDonald
Minnesota State Representative
District 29A



Representative Dave Baker
Minnesota State Representative
District 16B



Representative Steve Gander
Minnesota State Representative
District 1B

Representative Bernie Perryman
Minnesota State Representative
District 14A