



November 16, 2009

Dear Senator / Representative:

On behalf of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the following organizations, we urge you to vote for comprehensive health care reform legislation.

Minnesota's nonprofits approach the health care reform debate from three points of concern:

- as employers purchasing health insurance for employees and their families;
- as providers of medical care serving many people without health insurance, and
- as advocates for the needs of our local communities.

Nonprofit organizations employ 10 percent of Minnesota's workforce and provide health care benefits to thousands of families and children in our state. According to MCN's *2008 Nonprofit Salary and Benefit Survey*, 87 percent of nonprofit employers offer health benefits to their employees. In contrast, 43 percent of U.S. small businesses do the same, according to a recent study by Pricewaterhouse Coopers. Skyrocketing health care costs threaten the ability of nonprofits to continue offering health care to their employees and their families.

As Congress debates and make critical decisions on what will be included in health care reform legislation, we urge you to support the inclusion of the following principles into this legislation:

1. Support for small employers, including nonprofit employers

Provisions in health care reform legislation to exempt small businesses and to provide subsidies to small businesses to help them be able to provide health care coverage to their employees must also be extended to nonprofit employers.

2. Make health care affordable for low-income Minnesotans

Expanding access to affordable, quality health care is sound public policy. We urge you to support the inclusion of simplified and improved Medicaid coverage, as well as adequate subsidies to enable Minnesotans to purchase affordable, quality health insurance through the private market or through any new public option, health insurance exchange or cooperative that may be created. We only support the creation of an individual mandate or requirement to purchase health insurance under these conditions.

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3. Provide adequate federal funding

The expansion of affordable, quality health care should be paired with a package of funding provisions that is progressive overall. Federal health care reform should not shift costs from the federal government to the states. Expansion of the Medicaid program or other means of health coverage should be fully paid for by the federal government. Growing federal budget deficits threaten the federal government's ability to fund its priorities. Therefore, federal health care reform legislation should include adequate funding mechanisms, rather than add to the federal deficit.

4. Contain unsustainable cost increases

We believe that it is both appropriate and critical for Congress to enact specific and measurable strategies to reverse the escalating costs of health care. We support enacting reforms, including the creation of a public option, that results in identified savings in premiums and costs for individuals and employers.

We hope that you will work to ensure that any final legislation addresses these issues of importance to Minnesota's nonprofits and the people that we serve.

Please contact Steve Francisco at steve@mncn.org or call 651-757-3088 if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,



Jon Pratt
Executive Director



Marcia Avner
Public Policy Director

On behalf of the Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the following organizations:

Accessibility Consultants, Buffalo	Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, Duluth
Accountabilty Minnesota, St. Paul	Domestic Abuse Project, Minneapolis
Admission Possible, St. Paul	ElderCircle, Grand Rapids
Alexandra House, Inc., Blaine	Employment Enterprises, Inc., Little Falls
ARC Northland, Duluth	Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, St. Paul
Ascension Place, Minneapolis	Face to Face Health and Counseling, St. Paul
CAPI USA, Minneapolis	Families Moving Forward, Minneapolis
Child Care Choices, Inc., St. Cloud	Family Alternatives, Minneapolis
Children's Home Society & Family Services, St. Paul	Family Tree Clinic, St. Paul
Churches United in Ministry, Duluth	FamilyMeans, Stillwater
Clean Up the River Environment, Montevideo	Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN Leadership, Little Falls
Community Action Duluth, Duluth	Free To Be, Inc., Blaine
Community Thread, Stillwater	Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living, Fargo
Courage Center, Minneapolis	Friends of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, Minneapolis
Creative Play Place, St. Peter	Goodwill/Easter Seals Minnesota, St. Paul
Crossways International, Bloomington	Greater Frogtown Community Development Corporation, St. Paul
Dads Make a Difference, St. Paul	
Dakota Communities, Eagan	
Dakota Woodlands, Eagan	
District 202, St. Paul	

Growth and Justice, St. Paul
GWSAS, Inc., Red Wing
Harry Meyering Center, Mankato
Heartland Community Action Agency, Inc., Willmar
Horizon Homes, Inc., Mankato
Human Development Center, Duluth
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, St. Paul
Interfaith Outreach & Community Partners, Wayzata
Jewish Family and Children's Service of
Minneapolis, Minnetonka
Jewish Family Service, St. Paul
Joyce Preschool, Minneapolis
KFAI, Fresh Air Radio, Minneapolis
Konopka Institute for Best Practices in Mental
Health, Minneapolis
Lake County DAC, Inc., Knife River
Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau, Inc., Forest Lake
Laketrails Base Camp, Little Falls
League of Women Voters Minnesota, St. Paul
Lee Carlson Center for Mental Health and Well
Being, Fridley
Legal Rights Center, Minneapolis
Lifetrack Resources, St. Paul
Listening House of St. Paul, St. Paul
MacPhail Center for Music, Minneapolis
Metro Meals on Wheels, Minneapolis
Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers,
Minneapolis
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, St. Paul
Migizi Communications, Inc., Minneapolis
Minneapolis Urban League, Minneapolis
Minnesota AIDS Project, Minneapolis
Minnesota Community Action Partnership, St. Paul
Minnesota Food Association, St. Croix
Minnesota Housing Partnership, St. Paul
Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center,
Minneapolis
Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy,
Prevention and Parenting, St. Paul
Minnesota Public Interest Research Group,
Minneapolis
Minnesota Short Play Club, Bloomington
MN Youth Intervention Programs Association,
Mendota Heights
Neighborhood Development Alliance, St. Paul
New Foundations, Inc., St. Paul
No Barriers USA, Mound
Nokomis East Neighborhood Association,
Minneapolis

Outcomes, Inc., Shoreview
Parents United for Public Schools, St. Paul
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Minneapolis
Preventing Harm Minnesota, St. Paul
Project for Pride in Living, Inc., Minneapolis
Project Pathfinder, Inc., St. Paul
Rakhma Homes, Inc., Minneapolis
Rebuilding Together Twin Cities, St. Paul
Renewing the Countryside, Minneapolis
Residential Services of NE Minnesota, Inc., Duluth
Resource, Minneapolis
Restart Inc., Golden Valley
Rivers of Hope, Monticello
Riverton Community Housing, Minneapolis
Sabathani Community Center, Minneapolis
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Grand
Rapids
Sholom Community Alliance, St. Louis Park
Southern Valley Alliance for Battered Women, Belle
Plaine
Southwestern Center for Independent Living,
Marshall
St. Anne's Place, Minneapolis
Store to Door, St. Paul
Textile Center, Minneapolis
The Arc of Minnesota, St. Paul
The City, Inc., Minneapolis
The Loft Literary Center, Minneapolis
The Mercy Foundation, Moose Lake
The Origins Program, Minneapolis
The Rose Ensemble, St. Paul
Three Rivers Community Action, Zumbrota
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc., Crookston
Tubman, Minneapolis
Twin Cities Community Voicemail, St. Paul
Twin Cities Jewish Community Government Affairs
Program, Minneapolis
Twin Ports Nonprofit Coalition, Duluth
Vienna Community Arts, Maplewood
Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota, St. Paul
Vinland National Center, Loretto
West 7th Community Center, St. Paul
Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity, Duluth
Wingspan Life Resources, St. Paul
Youth Services Bureau, Inc., Stillwater
YWCA Duluth, Duluth
YWCA St. Paul, St. Paul