



March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Chair Wiklund

Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

Minnesota Senate Building

95 University Ave W

Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Wiklund and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) represents 80 percent of all active bedside hospital nurses in Minnesota and is the largest voice for professional nursing in the state. We are a leader in nursing, labor, health care and social justice communities and a voice for nurses and patients on issues relating to the professional, economic, and general well-being of nurses and in promoting the health and well-being of the public.

Thank you for your work to make healthcare more affordable in SF49, the Health Finance and Policy omnibus bill, which we support:

### **MN Health Plan Study**

MNA strongly supports the provisions for a study that examines the costs and benefits of a universal healthcare system, in comparison with the current public and private healthcare financing system. In other countries with some form of public healthcare financing, costs to patients and taxpayers are far lower, and health outcomes are better. We support this study to show how a public healthcare system in Minnesota would compare to our current patchwork of public and private insurance. In our current complicated, expensive, and inefficient system, too many Minnesotans are underinsured; rationing medications; delaying or skipping care due to cost; and going into debt or even bankruptcy due to healthcare bills. Minnesotans deserve to know what our healthcare could look like if the profit motive of insurance, hospital corporations and pharmaceutical companies was removed, and resources were invested into actual care.

### **Eligibility for Undocumented Children and Continuous Enrollment**

We also express our support for continuous eligibility for Medicaid coverage and including undocumented children in coverage for MNCare. All Minnesotans deserve access to affordable and accessible healthcare regardless of income and immigration status. We hope to see this coverage expanded to all ages because our state saves money and lives when we provide healthcare to everyone. Continuous eligibility ensures that individuals and families who

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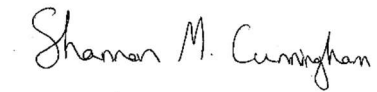


AFL-CIO

are already enrolled in Medicaid do not lose coverage due to administrative hurdles or minor fluctuations in income, and that the youngest Minnesotans in the state have consistent access to healthcare coverage.

Thank you for your work to support a better healthcare system. We appreciate and are grateful for the work and passion put into this omnibus bill and look forward to working with you all over the next weeks to continue building on this critical piece of legislation.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon M. Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

**Shannon M. Cunningham**  
Direction of Community and Government Relations  
Minnesota Nurses Association