

March 28, 2019

Melissa Hortman  
Speaker of the House  
463 State Office Building

Paul Gazelka  
Majority Leader  
Minnesota Senate Building, #3113

Cc: Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk and House Minority Leader Kurt Daudt, and members of the legislature

Dear Speaker Hortman, Majority Leader Gazelka, and members of the legislature,

We write to express our strong support for the proposal to repeal the sunset of the health care provider tax, included in Governor Walz's budget. The health care provider tax funds essential health care services for over one million Minnesotans and enables critical investments in the health and well-being of Minnesota's communities.

Allowing the health care provider tax to expire would create an annual revenue shortfall of \$680 million. This loss of funding would jeopardize health care access for thousands of low-income Minnesotans, threaten the stability of the health care sector and negatively impact the State budget.

We support the health care provider tax because:

- It has provided a stable source of income for the Health Care Access Fund;
- It has historically funded MinnesotaCare, and with the uncertainty at the federal level it is important we have adequate reserves in the fund to protect the program;
- It is time tested since it was enacted in 1992; and
- It has withstood legal challenges.

In the seven years since the sunset was enacted in 2011, there has been more than sufficient time for possible alternatives to the health care provider tax to be proposed, vetted, and considered. However, no reliable alternative has emerged. Consequently, critical health care services for low-income Minnesotans and innovative community health programs are imminently at risk.

With a projected loss of over \$850 million in health care provider tax revenue over the FY20-21 biennium, now is the time to act to save this critical source of health care funding. Therefore, **we collectively urge you to act this session to repeal the sunset of the provider tax and remove the cloud of uncertainty over the future of the Health Care Access Fund.**

Sincerely,  
AARP MN

Accra

Advance Opportunities  
AFSCME Council 5  
AFSCME Council 65  
Allina Health  
ALS Association, MN/ND/SD Chapter  
American Heart Association  
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation  
ARRM  
AspireMN  
Association of Minnesota Counties  
Awood Center  
B.I.G. Support Group/Social Club  
Behavioral Health Services-State of MN  
CAIR-Minnesota  
Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis  
Catholic Health Association of Minnesota  
CCRI, Inc.  
Cedar Branch Developmental Achievement  
Center  
Children's Minnesota  
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota  
CHOICE, Incorporated  
City of Minneapolis  
City of Saint Paul  
Clare Housing  
Community Action Duluth  
Community Action Partnership of Hennepin  
County  
Community Involvement Programs  
Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage  
CURE (Clean Up the River Environment)  
Curt Lind  
CWA MN State Council  
Education Minnesota  
eQuality-Pathways to Potential  
Faith in Minnesota  
Functional Industries, Inc.  
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare  
Goodwill-Easter Seals Minnesota  
Growth & Justice  
Hammer Residences  
Health Access MN  
Hennepin Health  
Hennepin Healthcare  
Hunger Solutions Minnesota  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Independent Management Service  
Inquilinx Unidxs por Justicia  
Inter-County Community Council  
ISAIAH  
Isuroon  
Ita Bel Koo DAC  
Jewish Community Action  
Jobs Plus Inc  
Joint Religious Legislative Coalition  
JustUs Health  
Lake County DAC, Inc.  
Lakes & Prairies Community Action  
Lakes and Pines Community Action Council  
Inc.  
Land Stewardship Project  
Legal Services Advocacy Project  
Lifeworks Services  
LIUNA Minnesota & North Dakota  
Living Well Disability Services  
Local Public Health Association of Minnesota  
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota  
Main Street Alliance Minnesota  
MAPE  
Mental Health Minnesota  
Metropolitan Consortium of Community  
Developers

Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants  
Minnesota AFL-CIO  
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers (MNACHC)  
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance  
Minnesota Budget Project  
Minnesota Catholic Conference  
Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless  
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities  
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits  
Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs  
Minnesota Disability Law Center  
Minnesota Doctors for Health Equity  
Minnesota Elder Justice Center  
Minnesota Farmers Union  
Minnesota First Provider Alliance  
Minnesota Hospital Association  
Minnesota National Farmers Organization  
Minnesota Nurse Practitioners (MNNP)  
Minnesota Nurses Association  
Minnesota Oral Health Alliance  
Minnesota Organization for Habilitation and Rehabilitation (MOHR)  
Minnesota Public Health Association  
Minnesota Safety Net Coalition  
Minnesota Social Service Association (MSSA)  
Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council  
MN Council on Disability  
MN Community Action Partnership  
MN350 Action  
MNFAC Minnesota Families Advocates Coalition

Mount Olivet Rolling Acres  
MSS  
NAMI  
NARAL Pro-Choice Minnesota  
National Association of Social Workers, MN Chapter  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
Nexus Youth and Family Solutions  
Norman County Developmental Activities Center  
Northwest Community Action  
Opportunity Partners  
OutFront Minnesota  
Partnership Resources, Inc.  
People's Center Clinics & Services  
Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund  
Portico Healthnet  
PossAbilities of Southern Minnesota  
Prepare + Prosper  
Proof Alliance (formerly MOFAS)  
Residential Services of Northeastern MN, Inc.  
Rise  
Rock County Opportunities, Inc.  
Saint Paul Federation of Educators  
Sanford Health Plan  
SEIU Healthcare MN  
SEIU Local 26  
SEIU MN State Council  
State Advisory Council on Mental Health  
Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health  
TakeAction Minnesota  
The Arc Minnesota  
The Association of Minnesota Counties  
The Family Partnership  
The Phoenix Residence, Inc.

This Is Medicaid

UCare

UFCW 1189

Unidos MN

United Steelworkers

Upstream Arts

Voices for Racial Justice

Volunteers of America Minnesota

West Central MN Communities Action, Inc.

Working America