

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **MMA PARTICIPATES IN PANEL ON HEALTH INSURANCE DURING “COVER THE UNINSURED” WEEK**

MINNEAPOLIS – Michael Ainslie, M.D., chair of the Board of the Minnesota Medical Association, will participate in a panel discussion to address the findings of a new report by researchers at the University of Minnesota that confirms there is a significant gap in access to care between people who do and do not have health insurance coverage. The event will be held Friday, May 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM in Moos Tower room 2-530 on the University’s East Bank campus. It is free and open to the public.

The report shows that although overall Minnesota citizens continue to have a high rate of health insurance coverage, there are significant disparities among several population groups and uninsurance rates in the state have actually increased over the last few years.

This event is one of many events throughout the nation during “Cover the Uninsured Week,” May 1-7, designed to focus attention on the plight of the nearly 46 million uninsured people in the United States.

Panel members include University health policy experts and leaders of community organizations. Lynn Blewett, associate professor in the School of Public Health and director of the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) will facilitate the panel discussion. Participants include:

- Kathleen Call, associate professor, University of Minnesota School of Public Health, and investigator, State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC)
- Jim Koppel, director, Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
- Jesse Bethke Gomez, president, Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)
- Michael Ainslie, M.D., chair of the Board of the Minnesota Medical Association
- SafetyNet Provider - Invited

This panel discussion is sponsored by the State Health Access Data Assistance Center (SHADAC) at the University of Minnesota with support from Pfizer, Inc. and the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly (GAPSA) at the University of Minnesota. "Cover the Uninsured Week" is a program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.