



May 7, 2024

Dear Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the more than 10,000 members of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), I urge your support of [HF 5442](#), which establishes explicit criteria and a formal investigation process prior to any reorganization or dissolution of the Hennepin Healthcare System Board of Directors.

The potential disruption of operations at Hennepin Healthcare has serious statewide implications. Hennepin Healthcare [ranks first in Medicaid volume](#) in Minnesota, is the busiest Level I trauma in the state, and is one of the largest teaching hospitals in the state.

The proposed legislation prioritizes the needs of the many patients Hennepin Healthcare serves, while preserving essential governance authority for both the system and Hennepin County. The challenges facing healthcare organizations, including Hennepin Healthcare, are numerous and complex and require expert and agile governance.

The MMA recognizes that many healthcare workers, including nurses and physicians, are experiencing unprecedented levels of burnout that has been exacerbated by current workforce shortages. Support for and investment in healthcare workers is essential. However, extreme proposals to change Hennepin Healthcare's governance structure in response to unpopular decisions does not prioritize patients, and, we fear, would do more harm than good for the future of Hennepin Healthcare. I urge you to support HF 5442.

Sincerely,

Laurel Ries, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association