



February 14, 2025

Dear Members of the House Health Finance Committee,

The Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), on behalf of more than 10,000 members, is committed to ensuring that all Minnesota patients, regardless of immigration status, have access to safe, timely, and high-quality health care. Minnesota's physicians see the immense value in providing access to care for those with undocumented status through MinnesotaCare.

When patients are unable to access necessary medical care, they may delay or defer treatment until their conditions become more severe, ultimately resulting in higher rates of preventable illness, the unnecessary spread of infectious disease, and more serious negative health outcomes. This results in higher healthcare costs for everyone. By ensuring coverage of all Minnesotans, regardless of immigration status, we reduce the total number of emergency room visits, reduce rates of untreated chronic conditions, and most importantly, help ensure that Minnesota communities are healthier.

In addition, removing access to MinnesotaCare services for people with undocumented status creates an environment of fear and stigma. A 2023 Kaiser Family Foundation study found that those with undocumented status often experience an array of health disparities and fear that seeking coverage, healthcare, or social support services will alert immigration authorities and experience facing discrimination from healthcare providers. These groups must be encouraged – not discouraged – to seek care.

Minnesota has some of the worst health disparities in the country. The proposed legislation would worsen those disparities even further, and likely increase rates of preventable disease, emergency room visits, and associated costs. I urge lawmakers to oppose efforts to restrict healthcare access for those with undocumented status.

Sincerely,

Edwin Bogonko, MD  
President, Minnesota Medical Association