

Principles for Future Health Care Reform

SF 18/HF 76

The Affordable Care Act represents the first time that our nation has made a commitment to providing health care for all. Minnesota has provided strong leadership in implementing the ACA, taking a big step towards covering more people. Through the expansion of Medicaid, the Basic Health Plan, and the MNSure Exchange, many Minnesota families will finally receive health insurance coverage.

However, to fully live up to Minnesota's potential (and the promise of the ACA) we need to be planning the next step for health care reform.

The following principles spell out conditions that must be met if we are to develop a health care system that keeps people healthy and provides high quality health care when it is needed. Our proposed Minnesota Health Plan (Senate File 18/House File 76) is designed around these nine principles, and it would be legally required to meet them:

- (1) Ensure all Minnesotans receive high quality health care, regardless of their income;
- (2) Not restrict, delay, or deny care or reduce the quality of care to hold down costs, but instead reduce costs through prevention, efficiency, and reduction of bureaucracy;
- (3) Cover all necessary care, including all coverage currently required by law, complete mental health services, chemical dependency treatment, prescription drugs, medical equipment and supplies, dental care, long-term care, and home care services;
- (4) Allow patients to choose their own providers;
- (5) Be funded through premiums and other payments based on the person's ability to pay, so as not to deny full access to any Minnesotan;
- (6) Focus on preventive care and early intervention to improve the health of all Minnesotans and reduce costs from untreated illnesses and diseases;
- (7) Ensure an adequate number of qualified health care professionals and facilities to guarantee availability of, and timely access to, quality care throughout the state;
- (8) Continue Minnesota's leadership in medical education, training, research, and technology; and
- (9) Provide adequate and timely payments to providers.

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