



MINNESOTA PUBLIC
HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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Health Care Access Fund/Provider Tax Sunset CALL TO ACTION

Description of issue: Since its inception in 1992, Health Care Access Fund (HCAF) has supported Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare which provides health care coverage to working families who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford health insurance. The current source of funding for HCAF is the provider tax, which is set to expire 12/31/19. If the provider tax expires, it would result in an almost \$700 million annual loss in dedicated funding for health care in Minnesota. The HCAF also funds public health prevention strategies through the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP), Health Care Homes, Health Economics, Rural Loan Forgiveness and several other MDH programs.

More about Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP): Communities around Minnesota are using SHIP to increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables, serve healthier foods, make walking and biking easier, encourage multi-unit housing to go smoke-free, and engage with employers to improve wellness options for employees. Working with community partners, SHIP has accelerated reductions in smoking rates and slowed rising obesity rates, resulting in \$620 M in averted health care spending since 2011.

SUMMARY OF BILLS

HF2414/SF2452 Omnibus HHS Bills

House omnibus bill includes an extension of the provider tax. Senate bill has the provider tax sunset as the funding source for the Health Care Access Fund, moving MDH programs including SHIP from the HCAF to the General Fund, where it is vulnerable to cuts. The Senate bill also:

- Eliminates a number of currently covered services in Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare including dental and vision
- Cuts access to Personal Care Attendant services by raising eligibility requirements
- Caps the number of people who can obtain Community Access for Disability Inclusion (CADI) and Developmental Disability waivers
- Cuts the actuarial value of MinnesotaCare leading to more out of pocket costs

STATUS OF BILL

The Omnibus bills are now being considered by the Health and Human Services Conference Committee, where it is expected that Republican Senate leadership will try to sunset the provider tax.

CALL TO ACTION

Please take the time to call or email all the Conference Committee members listed on the back. We have provided brief talking points, but it's important to use your own words and share your own stories.

FIRST STEP: Contact the Republicans on the Conference Committee. You can also tweet a message urging them to vote to continue the Provider Tax funding stream to those who have a twitter handle.

SHIP

#MNSHIP #PreventionMatters
#MNLeg #SupportSHIP
#SupportSHIPSupportHealth
@mnlpha – Local Public Health Association
@mnhealth – Minnesota Department of Health
@mnpublichealth – MPHA

Provider Tax

DontLetTheSunSet
@takeactionmn



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FIRST STEP: Contact the Republicans on the Conference Committee. You can also tweet a message urging them to vote to continue the Provider Tax funding stream to those who have a twitter handle.

Senator Michelle Benson (31, R)
651-296-3219
Sen.michelle.benson@senate.mn
@SenatorBenson

Senator Jim Abeler (35, R)
651-296-3733
sen.jim.abeler@senate.mn
@jimabeler

Senator Paul J Utke (02, R)
651-296-9651
Sen.paul.utke@senate.mn
@senutke

Senator Scott Jensen (47, R)
651.296.4837
Sen.scott.jensen@senate.mn
@drscottjensen

Rep Rod Hamilton (22B, R)
651-296-5373
rep.rod.hamilton@house.mn
@RodHamilton

Suggested Talking Points:

- Obesity costs Minnesota \$3.2 billion a year. SHIP is helping to reduce these costs. Since 2011, \$365 million in spending was averted by putting the brakes on rising adult obesity rates.
- Minnesota's health care provider tax has been a bipartisan solution to increase access to health care, contain health care costs, and improve the quality of health care services for Minnesotans since 1992.
- It's a time-tested funding source and the way Minnesotans contribute to taking care of each other and ensure our state has the resources to keep our health care system strong.
- Minnesota policymakers must act this year to stop the scheduled expiration of the Health Care Provider Tax or risk the future health care for more than 1 million Minnesotans.

SECOND STEP: Contact the Governor and Democrats on the Conference Committee to thank them for their support by phone, email or twitter.

Rep Laurie Halverson (51B, D)
651-296-4128
rep.laurie.halverson@house.mn
@LaurieHalverson

Senator John Marty (66, D)
651-296-5645
Sen.john.marty@senate.mn
@JohnMarty

Rep Rena Moran (65A, D)
651-296-5158
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Rep Tina Liebling (26A, D)
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Rep Jennifer Schultz (07A, D)
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