

****This letter was submitted on March 17th with over 140 signatures. The only change below is that the organizational signatures have been updated, to over 200 total.****

March 19th, 2020

The Honorable Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the Minnesota House of Representatives

The Honorable Kurt Daudt,
Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives

The Honorable Paul Gazelka
Majority Leader of the Minnesota Senate

The Honorable Susan Kent
Minority Leader of the Minnesota Senate

CC: Governor Tim Walz, Commissioner Jodi Harpstead

Dear legislative leaders,

The current pandemic crisis facing Minnesota shows us that we are all vulnerable to threats to our health and safety. No matter where we come from or what we look like, all Minnesotans want to feel safe, get the care we need, and be able to thrive. Yet our state and nation are facing an unprecedented crisis that threatens the health and safety of us all.

Minnesotans who rely on basic and essential supports, like child care, health care, mental health care, and other support services administered by the Department of Human Services (DHS) are especially vulnerable during this crisis.

On March 16, the Legislature passed COVID-19 emergency funding, shoring up our health care systems and institutions, but failed to pass legislation that would allow the state to take the emergency measures needed to keep all Minnesotans safe.

As a broad-based group of advocacy organizations and providers from across Minnesota we urge policymakers to reconvene Wednesday, March 18 to take action that will better ensure our friends, family members, and neighbors who depend on safety net supports can weather this crisis.

A wide range of basic critical policy areas administered by DHS are impacted: child care, mental health services, services for persons with disabilities and older adults, health care (Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare), economic assistance, housing support, children's services, supports for vulnerable populations, and the direct care and treatment system.

Legislators should act so that:

- Health coverage renewals can be delayed so that people don't lose Medicaid;
- Seniors and families do not lose food assistance;

- People with chronic health issues can do assessments and other visits remotely instead of face-to-face.
- People can access sufficient critical mental health treatment via telemedicine;
- People with disabilities and chronic health conditions can access supports, including shared staffing, PCA services, and paid supports from family members, that will allow them to stay healthy and stable at home;
- Child care providers have the flexibility they need to stay open and continue providing care for children of health care workers and first responders.

These are just a small fraction of the actions DHS should implement to meet the needs of Minnesotans during this crisis. We urge the Legislature to reconvene immediately and take action to allow the state to address these urgent community needs.

Sincerely,

A Place For Hope: Recovery & Wellness Center
 A.H. Wilder Foundation Community Mental Health & Wellness
 Accord
 Adolescent Treatment Center
 Advocating Change Together
 AFSCME Council 5
 AFSCME Council 66
 Aliveness Project
 Alzheimer's Association MN-ND Chapter
 American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
 American College of Emergency Physicians, Minnesota Chapter
 American College of Physicians, Minnesota Chapter
 Appetite For Change, Ince.
 Apple Tree Dental
 Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Inc.
 Arthritis Foundation
 Asian American Organizing Project (AAOP)
 AspireMN
 Autism Society of Minnesota
 Black Women's Wealth Alliance, SBC
 Bridges MN
 Brown County Human Services
 CAIR-MN
 Care Providers of Minnesota
 Carver Scott Dakota CAP Agency
 Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis
 Catholic Health Association of Minnesota
 Central Minnesota Mental Health Center

Central MN Council on Aging
 Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en Lucha (CTUL)
 Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
 Children's Home Society of Minnesota
 Children's Minnesota
 Clay County Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council
 Community Action Duluth
 Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties
 Community Dental Care
 Community University Health Care Center
 Corner Home Medical
 CURE
 Disability Justice Network of Minnesota
 Domestic Abuse Project
 Ecumen
 Education Minnesota
 Elder Voice Family Advocates
 Ellie Family Services
 Emerge Community Development
 Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
 Episcopal Church in Minnesota
 EVOLVE Family Services
 Faith in Minnesota
 Fraser
 Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
 Greater Twin Cities United Way
 Greenline PCA
 Growth & Justice
 Guardian and Conservator Services, LLC
 Guild Incorporated
 Hamm Memorial Psychiatric Clinic
 Hammer Residences

Haven Chemical Health
Health Access MN
Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
Hempel Real Estate
Hennepin Healthcare System
Hindered No More, LLC.
Hunger Solutions Minnesota
IDC (Immigrant Development Center)
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy
Inter-County Community Council
ISAIAH
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Family and Children's Service of
Minneapolis
JustUs Health
Keystone Community Services
KOOTASCA Community Action
LakePlace Retreat Center
Lakes & Prairies Community Action
Partnership
Lakes and Pines Community Action Council
Inc.
Land Stewardship Project
LeadingAge MN
Legal Services Advocacy Project
Life Fountain Home Healthcare, Inc
Living Well Disability Services
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota
M Health
MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action
Partnership
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Mental Health Minnesota
Mental Health Providers Association of
Minnesota (MHPAM)
Mental Health Resources, Inc.
Mentoring Professionals
Metro Meals on Wheels
Metro Social Services, Inc
Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging
Metropolitan Center for Independent Living
Mid Minnesota Legal Aid and Minnesota
Disability Law Center
Midwest Association for Medical Equipment
Services & Supplies (MAMES)
Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA
Minneapolis Autism Parent Support
Minnesota AFL-CIO
Minnesota Annual Conference, The United
Methodist Church
Minnesota Asset Building Coalition

Minnesota Association of Community Health
Centers
Minnesota Association of Community
Mental Health Programs
Minnesota Association of Marriage and
Family Therapy
Minnesota Association of Professional
Employees (MAPE)
Minnesota Association of Resources for
Recovery and Chemical Health
(MARRCH)
Minnesota Behavioral Health Network
Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance
Minnesota Budget Project
Minnesota Catholic Conference
Minnesota Chapter of the American
Academy of Pediatrics
Minnesota Chapter, American College of
Physicians
Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
Minnesota Community Action Partnership
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with
Disabilities
Minnesota Council of Churches
Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
Minnesota Council on Disability
Minnesota Elder Justice Center
Minnesota First Provider Alliance
Minnesota Immigrant Health Alliance
Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light
Minnesota Medical Association
Minnesota Nurse Practitioners
Minnesota Nurses Association
Minnesota Psychiatric Society
Minnesota Psychological Association
Minnesota School Social Workers
Association
Minnesota Social Service Association
Minnesota Valley Action Council
Minnesota Youth Climate Strike
MN 350
MN American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
MN APRN (Advance Practice Registered
Nurses) Coalition
MN Hospital Association
MN Licensed Practical Nurses Association
MN State Advisory Committee on Mental
Health
Multicultural Autism Action Network
Muslim American Society of Minnesota

NAMI Minnesota
National Association of Social Workers - MN
Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women
Minnesota
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Navigate/UnidosMN
Neighborhood House
New Challenges, Inc
New Life Treatment Center
Nexus Community Partners
Northeast Youth & Family Services
Northside Residents Redevelopment
Council (NRRC)
Northwest Community Action
Northwest Indian Community Development
Center
Northwestern Mental Health Center
NUWAY
Open Arms of Minnesota
Opportunity Partners
OutFront Minnesota
Outreach, LLC
Paralyzed Veterans of America, Minnesota
Chapter
People Incorporated
People Serving People
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center
Pillsbury United Communities
Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North
Dakota, South Dakota Action Fund
Pregnancy Postpartum Support Minnesota
Proof Alliance
Range Treatment Center
Reach for Resources, Inc.
ResCare MN
Residential Transitions Inc
Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Local
#28
SEIU Healthcare Minnesota
SEIU Local 284
Sierra Club North Star Chapter
Sioux Trails Mental Health Center
Southeastern MN Center for Independent
Living, Inc.
St Louis Park Emergency Program
State Advisory Council on Mental Health
State Subcommittee on Children's Mental
Health
Superior Home Care
TakeAction Minnesota

The American Diabetes Association
The Arc Minnesota
The Center for Victims of Torture
The Cottages Group
The Heart and Mind Connection
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Open Door
This is Medicaid
Three Rivers Community Action
Thrive Behavioral Network
Touchstone Mental Health
Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Inc.
Twin Cities Medical Society
United Hospital District
Unlimited Possibilities
Vail Place
Vinland National Center
Voices for Racial Justice
Volunteers of America MN & WI
Washburn Center for Children
Wellness in the Woods
West Central Minnesota Communities
Action Inc.
White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf
Woodland Centers
White Bear Area Emergency Food Shelf
Woodland Centers