



COURT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
2550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE WEST
SUITE 255 SOUTH
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55114
651-645-0099 FAX 651-645-0098

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Minnesota Council of Health Plans statement on Graham-Cassidy bill
***We should be spending our time making sure people get care,
not counting votes.***

"We must do better. Simply chopping federal spending will not slow rising medical bills and will mean new hardship for people who need care, who are elderly, or just don't have the money. I know our leaders in Washington can do better. We should be spending our time making sure people get care, not counting votes.

Health policy is absent in this bill. Minnesotans, like everyone in America, deserve ideas that work and nothing less. We cannot move backward to a system where only some people get the care they need.

Specifically, this legislation:

- **Destroys patient safeguards.** All Minnesotans should be able to get the care they need. By destroying important safeguards, the bill would harm Minnesotans — mostly children, people who are poor, and those who have medical conditions.
- **Makes premiums even more expensive.** By taking billions of dollars from Minnesota's health care budget, the legislation will make health insurance even more expensive for all Minnesotans than it already is, whether you get your insurance through work or buy it on your own.
- **Takes away options in Minnesota.** Some in the Senate claim that the proposed legislation will grant state more "flexibility." For Minnesota, it's the kind of "flexibility" you get when you're over a barrel. While it may help a few states, it sets Minnesota and others back decades.
- **Feeds the cycle of toxic politics.** By converting dependable funding for Minnesotans into one lump sum payment, the legislation creates a budget busting, high-stakes legislative crisis in Saint Paul and in other state capitols.

- Jim Schowalter, president, Minnesota Council of Health Plans

-30-