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October 9, 2017

The Honorable Don Wright  
Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Acting Secretary Wright and Secretary Mnuchin,

More than 100,000 working, poor Minnesotans rely on MinnesotaCare, our state's Basic Health Plan, to get the medical care they need. Recent decisions by the federal government put MinnesotaCare's future funding at risk.

Echoing the statements of others across our state, my organization, along with our member health insurers, join community organizations and elected officials in asking you to reconsider the decision that reduces MinnesotaCare funding with the approval of our state's 1332 reinsurance program waiver. These programs are both essential components of our state's strategic work to help ensure Minnesotans get care. MinnesotaCare is a valuable pathway between Medicaid and private insurance, easing transitions and helping ensure consistent care for individuals and families.

Throughout the development and negotiation of the state's 1332 waiver application, there was an expectation that MinnesotaCare funding would be maintained as is. We have been told the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Department of Treasury assured the state the waiver application met all requirements to keep MinnesotaCare funding intact.

Minnesotans should not be punished for our innovative work that helps simplify the complex health care system so people get care. Our new state-based reinsurance program and decades old MinnesotaCare reflect this commitment to innovation. We respectfully request you support this important work by maintaining the MinnesotaCare BHP funding in the 1332 reinsurance waiver approval.

The problem of rising medical bills is too complex to address without strong partnerships. We believe that our waiver can lower the cost of insurance and we are asking you to support it in partnership with the State, its insurers, and the many Minnesotans that buy insurance on their own.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Schowalter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

James Schowalter  
President & CEO

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Acting Secretary Wright and Secretary Mnuchin

October 9, 2017

CC:

Seema Verma, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Senator Al Franken

Senator Amy Klobuchar

Representative Tim Walz

Representative Jason Lewis

Representative Erik Paulsen

Representative Betty McCollum

Representative Keith Ellison

Representative Tom Emmer

Representative Collin Peterson

Representative Rick Nolan

Governor Mark Dayton

Commissioner Emily Piper, Minnesota Department of Human Services

Speaker of the House Kurt Daudt

State Senate Majority Leader Paul E. Gazelka

State Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Minority Leader

State Representative Melissa Hortman, Minority Leader

State Senator Gary H. Dahms

State Representative Greg Davids