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Minnesota Council of Health Plans Statement on Gov. Mark Dayton's Executive Order

The Minnesota Council of Health Plans today recognized Gov. Mark Dayton for his leadership in expanding care to vulnerable Minnesotans while acknowledging the impact of rising costs for Minnesota taxpayers.

"In less than three months in office, Gov. Dayton has shown his willingness to act decisively to strengthen Minnesota's system of health, especially for low-income people," said Julie Brunner, executive director of the Minnesota Council of Health Plans. "We support his efforts to expand Medicaid eligibility to cover more Minnesotans and we are eager to work with him to make sure the state's entire health system is transparent, accountable and cost-efficient."

Brunner said the executive order signed today by the governor picks up on some of the themes she included in an opinion article published earlier this month in the Star Tribune. "Health plans are subjected to more than 200 different reports and audits every year," said Brunner. "Collectively, these reports include all the information on earnings, administrative costs and other data the governor is seeking. We hope that his order today doesn't just add another report, but streamlines the process in a way that policy makers and the public can find helpful information in a single location.

"While we acknowledge Gov. Dayton's decisive work to strengthen Minnesota's system of health, we hope the proposal to change contracting doesn't mean the quality of the coverage offered to low income Minnesotans will decline. We know how care can be delivered more efficiently. For nearly 25 years the health plans have ensured low income Minnesotans get the health care they need. In addition, private sector innovations are currently changing the way health care is purchased while improving care and better controlling health care costs," said Brunner.

"Minnesota's health plans have been important contributors to the quality, accessibility and affordability of health in our state and we look forward to continuing to find new solutions," said Brunner. "We hope Gov. Dayton's executive order isn't the final word, but another sign of his commitment to fixing the underlying drivers of health care costs while we continue to expand coverage and maintain the high quality of care."

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