

## **STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

130 State Capitol + 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard + Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 25, 2007

The Honorable Margaret Kelliher Speaker of the House 463 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

## Statement of Item Veto -- Chapter 147, H.F. 1078

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

I have received, approved, signed, and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State, Chapter 147, House File 1078, the Omnibus Health and Human Services bill, with the exception of the item vetoes listed below.

The following items of appropriation are vetoed:

- 1. <u>Page 455, lines 455.18 455.19</u>: By deleting the words "and \$7,291,000 in fiscal year 2009," I have vetoed the \$7,291,000 appropriation for the 2009 fiscal year. This was an appropriation for supported work for MFIP participants. The manner in which this money is used is not optimal and there are more effective ways to accomplish goals in this area. Vetoing second year funding gives the state an opportunity during the next legislative session to develop more cost effective alternatives to meeting our federal work requirements.
- 2. <u>Page 456, line 456.27 Page 457, line 457.2</u>: This appropriation of \$750,000 each fiscal year is for work study grants for individuals receiving MFIP assistance. The beneficiaries of these grants are the schools who should already be paying for work performed as part of the work study arrangement. Subsidies to colleges for work study positions for MFIP recipients are also not a necessity given the Legislature's decision to repeal MFIP's 20-hour work requirement.

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- 3. <u>Page 466, lines 466.16 466.26</u>: This \$1,500,000 per year appropriation is for auto repairs, auto loans, and auto purchase grants to individuals who are eligible for MFIP. This provision creates a permanent MFIP program that pays for car loans. Such loans are not an eligible use of TANF funds.
- 4. <u>Page 470, lines 470.25 470.27</u>: This \$50,000 per year appropriation is for a grant to HOMEline for a tenant hotline service program. This provision earmarks funding for a specific provider as opposed to using a competitive grant process for the delivery of this service.
- 5. <u>Page 475, line 475.21 Page 476, line 476.2</u>: This \$300,000 appropriation is for a state health policies grant. This provision does not have state-wide applicability and it does not require that any results or findings be documented as a result of the investment. A study of this kind should also be reported to the responsible agency, not to the Legislature.
- 6. Page 477, lines 477.18 477.22: This is an appropriation of \$950,000 in the first year and \$1,000,000 in the second year from the health care access fund for a statewide media campaign. This type of funding represents an inefficient means to increase the number of insured Minnesotans. This bill otherwise funds numerous other outreach efforts which will have a much more direct effect on improving the number of Minnesotans covered by health insurance.
- Page 487, lines 487.20 487.26: This is a \$4,302,000 appropriation to repay Fillmore, Steele, and St. Louis Counties for their overspending in the waiver program. I have vetoed this item of appropriation because it sets a bad precedent and provides a disincentive for counties to carefully manage and monitor their programs.
- 8. <u>Page 490, lines 490.18 490.23</u>: This \$200,000 appropriation is for heart disease and stroke prevention. At the start of the legislative session, federal funding for heart disease and stroke prevention did not look likely. However, the Department of Health has been notified that their

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federal grant will be renewed. As a result, additional state funding is not needed at this time.

9. <u>Page 498, lines 498.7 – 498.15</u>: This is an \$80,000 per year general fund appropriation for HIV information. At the start of the legislative session, the Department of Health and the Department of Human Services anticipated that they would not be able to continue to support the existing HIV hotline. In the interim, however, DHS has been awarded a federal HIV grant that is sufficient to continue funding of the HIV Information hotline.

Sincerely,

**Tim Pawlenty** 

Governor

cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader Senator Steve Murphy Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader Representative Bernard Lieder Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State