



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

February 18, 2010

The Honorable James Metzen
President of the Senate
322 State Capitol Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 182, Senate File 2168, a bill that makes modifications to the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program.

I initially vetoed this program in May 2009 because its costs were skyrocketing out of control, and the program was badly in need of reform. Senate File 2168 does not represent meaningful reform and does not address fundamental cost issues. It essentially re-establishes GAMC in its prior form, while reducing provider reimbursement rates by 50 percent.

I refer you further to both my veto letter of May 14, 2009, regarding a line-item veto of the program, as well as my letter to the House of Representatives from earlier today outlining my continuing concerns.

As the state struggles to resolve a \$1.2 billion deficit, passage of this legislation is at best premature. Legislation that appropriates significant funds simply cannot be passed in a piecemeal fashion. A comprehensive, balanced budget solution must first be reached.

This legislation utilizes \$170 million that I previously identified in my supplemental budget to help resolve the current \$1.2 billion deficit. Those same dollars cannot be used twice.

If a comprehensive budget solution is achieved, I remain open to working with you on these issues.

Sincerely,

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Linda Berglin
Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
Representative Kurt Zellers, Minority Leader
Representative Erin Murphy
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)
Mr. Albin Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State