



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 13, 2010

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

I have vetoed and am returning House File 2614, Chapter 360. This bill was presented to me in the absence of a global budget agreement or even good faith negotiations with my Administration.

On May 4, I sent a letter to Senator Berglin and Representative Huntley highlighting several serious concerns regarding new spending financed by higher surcharges. The surcharges on hospitals, insurance companies, and group homes will increase health care costs at a time when we should be focused on lowering health care costs. I will not sign a bill that moves in that misguided direction.

Moreover, the minimal deficit reduction targets found in this bill may not be sufficient to help address the FY 2010-11 deficit or make any meaningful progress on the FY 2012-13 shortfall.

Fortunately, after the May 4 letter was sent, the negotiated, bipartisan agreement over General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) took a significant step forward. The news about the four major hospitals which have signed contracts with the state proves that this program can and will work. I once again thank you for your key leadership in that negotiated compromise.

I encourage you and Senator Pogemiller to direct your health care chairs to work with Commissioner Ludeman and my staff to address these concerns and develop a bill that can be signed into law as part of an overall budget agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim Pawlenty".

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

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Speaker Kelliher

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cc: Senator James Metzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Linda Berglin
Representative Kurt Zellers, Minority Leader
Representative Thomas Huntley
Mr. Peter S. Wattson, Secretary of the Senate (Legislative)
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State