



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 8, 2008

The Honorable James Metzen
President, Minnesota Senate
322 State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Metzen:

I have vetoed and am returning Senate File 3132, relating to financial and medical debt information.

I support efforts to prevent the use of credit ratings or credit reports in providing essential medical services. However, this bill contains some extremely broad terms that are not defined. The failure to define key terms will result in confusion as to the scope and application of this bill in relation to routine medical services and will likely result in significant unintended consequences.

Senate File 3132 broadly prohibits health care providers: (1) from disclosing "financial or medical debt information"; and (2) from obtaining "financial or medical debt information" from any "entity" prior to providing the medical services. The bill defines "medical debt information," but fails to define "financial information."

Prohibitions in this bill relating to the term "medically necessary" are also unclear. The bill does not define "medically necessary" or identify what entity determines whether services are "medically necessary." Without further definition, the language suggests that all non-cosmetic medical services are subject to this bill. This would potentially include all routine and specialized medical care and elective procedures, provided that the procedure treats an existing medical condition.

If the undefined terms in this bill are interpreted broadly as the terms suggest, this bill could force significant changes in the delivery of routine medical services

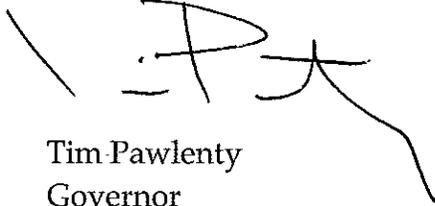
Sen. Metzen/SF3132

Page 2

May 8, 2008

in Minnesota and unnecessarily impact the costs to Minnesotans. The testimony on this bill confirmed that using credit scores and similar aggregated consumer data is not currently a problem in Minnesota. I am hopeful that the Legislature can create a bill that addresses the potential problem in a focused and more carefully drafted manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Pawlenty', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

Cc: Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Linda Scheid
Representative Margaret Anderson Kelliher, Speaker of the House
Representative Marty Seifert, Minority Leader
Representative Diane Loeffler
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Al Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State