



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Tim Pawlenty

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

May 14, 2009

The Honorable Margaret Anderson Kelliher
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Kelliher:

Please be advised that I have received, approved, signed and deposited in the Office of the Secretary of State Chapter 79, House File 1362, the omnibus health and human services bill, with the exception of the following line item veto:

Page 373, line 11: A \$381,081,000 appropriation for fiscal year 2011 for General Assistance Medical Care grants.

The rate of growth in health and human services spending is forecasted to grow by approximately 15 percent in the next biennium and approximately 30 percent in the following biennium, and that rate is unsustainable. In the 2010-2011 biennium, my budget recommendations for health and human services saved roughly \$1.67 billion in the general fund. The budget adopted by the legislature in this bill saves substantially less — \$613.4 million. I encourage legislators to continue working next session to slow the growth in the state's human services spending.

The impact of this item veto and related, anticipated unallotments will not occur immediately. As a result, the legislature will have an opportunity to address this change further if it chooses. Additionally, many individuals now eligible for GAMC may be eligible under the Minnesota Care Program.

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Although I have approved this bill, significant concerns remain regarding provisions prohibiting a special transportation broker, as well as the provisions related to the automatic renewal of MinnesotaCare eligibility.

I am also disappointed in the county human services redesign provisions contained in the bill. They are timid and lack boldness. Counties can already do multi-county human services delivery, program by program, under current law. The bill's requirements for multiple binding agreements with the state simply add complexity and bureaucratic structure to the current process. I hope there will be legislative attention yet this session to improve upon the county human services redesign in the bill as well as other troubling provisions in the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Pawlenty', with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Tim Pawlenty
Governor

cc: Senator James Métzen, President of the Senate
Senator Lawrence J. Pogemiller, Majority Leader
Senator David Senjem, Minority Leader
Senator Linda Berglin
Representative Marty Seifert, 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