



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

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

March 26, 2012

The Honorable Chris Gerlach  
Chair  
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee  
120 Capitol Building  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Joe Hoppe  
Chair  
House Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee  
563 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chairs Gerlach and Hoppe:

Last October, I directed the MN Department of Commerce to convene a non-partisan Health Insurance Exchange Task Force with broad stakeholder representation. Legislators from both the Majority and Minority Caucuses of the House and Senate were invited to serve as voting members. Unfortunately, the Majority Caucuses in both bodies declined to participate. The participating members included:

- Sue Abderholden, Executive Director, Minnesota Alliance on Mental Illness
- Alfred Babington Johnson, CEO, Stair Step Foundation
- Dannette Coleman, Vice President/General Manager, Individual and Family Business, Medica
- Phillip Cryan, Health Policy Specialist and Organizing Director, SEIU
- Mary Foarde, Attorney and Former General Counsel, Allina
- Dorii Gbolo, CEO/Executive Director and Board Member, Open Cities Health Center
- Robert Hanlon, Founder and President, Corporate Health Systems (insurance broker)
- Roger Kathol, M.D., Owner, Cartesian Solutions, Inc. (physician)
- Phil Norrgard, Director of Human Services, Fond du Lac Indian Tribe
- Stephanie Radtke, Deputy Director, Community Services Division, Dakota County
- Daniel Schmidt, Vice President, Great River Office Products (MN Chamber of Commerce)
- Representative Joe Atkins, District 39B, Minnesota House of Representatives
- Representative Tom Huntley, District 7A, Minnesota House of Representatives
- Senator Tony Lourey, District 8, Minnesota State Senate
- Senator Ann Rest, District 45, Minnesota State Senate
- Commissioner Ed Ehlinger, Minnesota Department of Health (ex-officio)
- Commissioner Lucinda Jesson, Minnesota Department of Human Services (ex-officio)
- Commissioner Mike Rothman, Minnesota Department of Commerce (ex-officio/CHAIR)

The Task Force also established 10 workgroups (eight in progress, two about to start) to broaden participation still further. The Task Force and its work groups held 32 public meetings across

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the state. During that time, they took public testimony and gathered input from over 200 Minnesotans at task force meetings and during work group sessions.

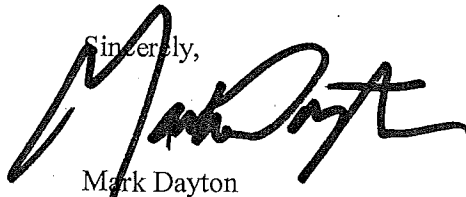
In January, the Task Force released its broad recommendations. They reflected a balanced, well thought-out approach, which represented the consensus views of the members. The Task Force made recommendations, which would form a strong foundation for a Minnesota-designed Exchange and help achieve the goal of providing affordable health insurance to our state's citizens and businesses.

Unfortunately, numerous bills proposed this Legislative Session ignore those consensus recommendations. Instead they take piecemeal approaches, without addressing comprehensively either the formation or the operation of a Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange.

It would be far more productive to consider and pass legislation that would address all of the components essential to a Minnesota-made Health Insurance Exchange. It would be even more beneficial, if Legislative Leaders like yourselves would discuss those elements with members of the Task Force and obtain the benefit of their considerable expertise.

Unfortunately, there are some, who would rather play politics with this Exchange in an election year, than work sincerely and cooperatively to advance it in Minnesota. If the Legislature passes on enacting such legislation, which must be bi-partisan, non-ideological, and constructive, we will have to utilize the legal executive actions necessary to satisfy the federal law, as has already been done in other states.

Furthermore, I will not support any Health Exchange-related bills, which make only ideologically driven, piecemeal decisions. Accordingly, I urge you to pass legislation, which is consistent with the recommendations of the Task Force and establish a comprehensive framework for a Minnesota-designed Health Insurance Exchange, which will best serve the citizens and the businesses of our state.

Sincerely,  
  
Mark Dayton  
Governor

Attachment: Health Insurance Exchange Task Force Report

cc: Senator David Hann  
Senator Tony Lourey  
Senator Ann Rest  
Representative Jim Abeler  
Representative Steve Gottwalt  
Representative Tom Huntley  
Representative Joe Atkins  
Representative Tina Liebling