



February 1, 2021

Senator Michelle Benson  
Chair  
Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota Senate

Dear Senator Benson,

On behalf of the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the 6,300 employers and more than 500,000 employees we represent, I am writing in support of SF 146, Mandated health benefit proposals evaluation process modification.

Minnesota requires coverage of roughly 60 benefits as part of fully-insured individual and group health insurance products sold in the state. By some estimates, Minnesota ranks in the top five states with the most mandates. All of these coverage mandates were passed by the Legislature to help Minnesotans access coverage for certain health care procedures or treatments. They all help someone. But it is also true that they all come with a cost. Research has indicated that:

- the average mandate increases premiums between 0.44-1.11% annually
- mandates tend to have a larger impact on the premiums of small employers who do not have the advantage of self-insuring, which provides greater flexibility around plan design and benefit offerings

Seventy percent of our members who offer health insurance coverage to their employees purchase coverage in the fully-insured market. It is these small and mid-sized employers and their employees who bear the full cost of Minnesota's extensive coverage mandates.

It is difficult, however, for legislators to weigh concerns about cost against the impact that coverage of a specific treatment or procedure could have on those who seek it. SF 146 will ensure that as new proposals are brought forward that would add to Minnesota's already long list of mandated health benefits, legislators will have access to reliable data and information about the cost/benefit tradeoffs associated with each proposal. It is our hope that such a move will both inform and improve the process through which future decisions about Minnesota's mandated benefit set are made.

We thank you for bringing this legislation forward, and we urge its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bentley Graves".

Bentley Graves  
Director, Health Care & Transportation Policy