June 2, 1989

The Honorable Robert Vanasek
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Speaker Vanasek:

I have vetoed and am returning to you Chapter 281, HF 1285, a bill relating to the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA).

I understand that this bill proposes a number of reforms for this insurance program which includes health care cost containment measures. The purpose of these measures is to better manage the program so that current and future enrollees can continue to receive quality health care.

I commend the authors, Senator Brandl and Representative Skoglund for their work on a difficult and complex issue.

However, a major misunderstanding has resulted from the passage of the bill. Current enrollees believe that access to quality care will be reduced and that the present level of premiums will increase. This perception of the bill adds to the burden of a serious and often times continuing illness these people and their families already face.
I am directing Commissioner Hatch and the MCHA board to work on the questions this bill addresses over the interim. In addition, I am directing the Commissioner and the MCHA board to work with MCHA enrollees to arrive at a better understanding of the issues and solutions and to shape a proposal for the next legislative session.

In light of the serious concerns raised by MCHA enrollees, I am vetoing this bill and returning it to you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

RUDY PERPICH
Governor

cc: Senator Jerome Hughes, President of the Senate
    Representative Wes Skoglund
    Senator John Brandl
    Secretary of State, Joan Growe
    Mr. Edward A. Burdick