



STATE OF MINNESOTA
L'Étoile du Nord

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

Better, More Affordable Health Care

Budget for a Better Minnesota

All Minnesotans need access to quality, affordable health care that meets the needs of their families. However, rising costs and limited choices have placed an unfair burden on too many Minnesotans. A new report from the Minnesota Department of Health shows that rising costs and fewer options have forced 116,000 Minnesotans to drop their health insurance over the last two years. Minnesotans need more options and more affordable prices for the high-quality care they expect and deserve.

In addition to the rising cost of health insurance, Minnesotans continue to face other challenges for the health and wellbeing of their families. The opioid crisis hurts more and more Minnesota families every year, with 395 Minnesotans losing their lives to opioid overdoses in 2016. Rising costs for child care, access to essential health care for women, and the neglect and abuse of older and vulnerable adults all require action this session.

That is why Governor Dayton is proposing comprehensive, commonsense solutions to provide Minnesotans with more affordable health care choices, curb the state's opioid crisis, strengthen protections for older and vulnerable adults, ensure Minnesota women have continued access to quality health care choices, and more. Read more about how Governor Dayton's Budget for a Better Minnesota would improve access to quality, affordable health care below.

Policy	Description
Another, More Affordable Choice for Health Insurance for an Estimated 100,000 Minnesotans	<p>Governor Dayton's MinnesotaCare Buy-In proposal would allow all Minnesotans the choice to purchase their health insurance through MinnesotaCare – a state program that for 26 years has provided eligible working Minnesota families a more affordable option to purchase their health care. By giving every Minnesotan this decision, MinnesotaCare Buy-In would expand health care choices for Minnesotans everywhere in the state, increase competition in the individual health insurance market, and save Minnesotans money.</p> <p>MinnesotaCare Buy-In would reduce costs and improve access for about 100,000 more Minnesotans who purchase health insurance on the individual market. Unlike traditional MinnesotaCare enrollees who receive subsidized coverage, individuals who choose MinnesotaCare Buy-In would pay their own way – meaning the cost of their premiums would pay for their coverage.</p> <p>To learn more about the MinnesotaCare Buy-In proposal, including the five most important things you need to know about how this</p>

	<p>plan will provide high-quality, affordable health coverage for Minnesotans, CLICK HERE. To learn more about how MinnesotaCare Buy-In would provide an estimated 100,000 Minnesotans another more affordable choice for health insurance, CLICK HERE. To take a look at 15 of the most frequently-asked questions about the MinnesotaCare Buy-In proposal, CLICK HERE. To learn more about some of the myths circling about the Governor’s MinnesotaCare Buy-In proposal, CLICK HERE.</p>
<p>Combating Minnesota’s Opioid Crisis through Prevention, Treatment, and Law Enforcement</p>	<p>Governor Dayton has proposed a slate of bipartisan legislative proposals that would invest in high-impact strategies to treat and prevent opioid abuse, especially in communities disproportionately impacted by opioid addiction. Included in those legislative proposals is a new Opioid Stewardship Program, which would fund opioid abuse prevention and treatment strategies across the state. After implementation, the Stewardship Program would raise approximately \$20 million a year to be used exclusively for treatment and recovery, prevention, and emergency response services in every corner of Minnesota. To learn more about the Governor’s bipartisan proposals to combat the opioid crisis and save lives across Minnesota, CLICK HERE.</p>
<p>Protecting the Health and Safety of Minnesota Seniors and Vulnerable Adults</p>	<p>Minnesota seniors deserve access to safe, high-quality care at every facility in the state. Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would provide \$12 million for increased services and resources to better serve older and vulnerable adults, including stronger licensing requirements for residential care facilities, and better communication with seniors and their families. These bipartisan proposals also would strengthen criminal and civil penalties for perpetrators of abuse and the companies that employ them. To learn more about how these proposals would protect the health and safety of Minnesota seniors and vulnerable adults, CLICK HERE.</p>
<p>Ensuring Minnesota Women Can Choose the Quality Health Care They Need</p>	<p>In October 2017, the Trump Administration eliminated a rule that required health insurance companies to provide coverage for contraception at no additional cost to patients. Governor Dayton is supporting legislation this session to reverse the Trump Administration’s decision at the state level, and guarantee the right of Minnesota women to access this basic health care coverage at no additional cost beyond their health insurance. Under the proposal, health insurance companies would be required to cover all FDA-approved methods of contraception. READ MORE about what Governor Dayton has to say about this important proposal.</p>
<p>Making Child Care More Affordable for Minnesota Families</p>	<p>Quality child care can be a significant financial burden for Minnesota families, costing an average of more than \$10,000 per year for each child. Minnesota’s Child Care Assistance Program provides financial assistance to help approximately 15,000 low-income working families pay for child care. This funding makes a big difference for parents and their children – it allows parents to</p>

	<p>pursue education or work, while helping Minnesota kids access high-quality child care. Governor Dayton’s budget would make technical changes to Child Care Assistance Program eligibility requirements to help ensure Minnesota remains eligible for federal child care grant funding, including an \$88.5 million award in 2019. These grants would help serve approximately 30,000 children across Minnesota.</p>
<p>Providing Mental Health and Other Resources for Minnesota Farmers</p>	<p>After years of low commodity prices and high costs, many Minnesota farmers are experiencing significant stress, both financial and emotional. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recently launched the Farm & Rural Helpline, a free, confidential service to help connect callers to financial assistance programs, health and mental health services, and legal help. In addition, the agency held a series of “Down on the Farm” seminars this winter to help people who work with farmers on a regular basis recognize stress, anxiety, depression, and other challenges.</p> <p>Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota would build on the Department of Agriculture’s efforts by providing \$200,000 to help Minnesota State hire an additional mental health specialist to better support struggling farmers and their families.</p>
<p>Securing the Long-Term Stability of Health Care Funding for Tens of Thousands of Minnesota Families</p>	<p>Minnesota’s Health Care Access Fund (HCAF) was created to increase Minnesotans’ access to health care, contain health care costs, and improve the quality of health care services for Minnesotans. Revenues for the HCAF come from a small tax on health care providers, which is set to expire on December 31, 2019. Without action from the Legislature, these essential revenues – which connect tens of thousands of Minnesotans to better, more affordable health care – will disappear and leave a \$530 million annual gap in our state budget.</p> <p>Governor Dayton is committed to leaving the state budget better than he found it, and making sure that tens of thousands of Minnesotans who rely on programs funded by the Health Care Access Fund do not lose the high-quality, more affordable care they need. That is why the Governor’s budget would eliminate the provider tax’s expiration date – delivering long-term budget stability for the people of Minnesota, and protecting Minnesotans’ health care.</p>

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To learn more about other proposals included in Governor Dayton’s Budget for a Better Minnesota, [CLICK HERE](#).