

Your FirstName LastName, Credentials

123 Address

City, MN ZipCode

Email

Phone

Date

Dear Governor Walz OR Senator [Last Name] OR Representative [Last Name],

I am writing to respectfully urge you to reinstate chiropractic coverage for adult Medical Assistance (MA) enrollees in Minnesota. At its core, this is not just a budget decision – it is a patient care decision that impacts healthcare access for some of our state’s most vulnerable residents.

Musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions, such as low back and neck pain, are among the leading causes of disability. This impacts people’s ability to work, care for their families, and participate fully in their communities. MSK conditions are not only painful, but also costly. Nationwide, low back and neck pain alone account for \$135-\$150 billion annually, with total MSK disorders exceeding \$400 billion. Minnesota’s proportional share is approximately \$6.8 billion per year for all MSK conditions, including \$2.3 billion annually for back and neck pain alone.

Chiropractic care is a safe, non-pharmacological, and cost-effective treatment that helps patients stay active, avoid unnecessary medical treatments, and reduce reliance on opioids. When coverage is removed, patients are forced into more expensive and intensive care pathways which often involve emergency departments or surgical consultations, causing both personal suffering and high costs to the healthcare system. A 2024 Clinical Compass analysis and Medicaid data from Missouri show chiropractic care reduces total MSK-related costs by more than \$1,200 per patient annually, while cutting emergency department visits and hospital admissions in half.

For patients that choose chiropractic care, the impact is personal and immediate. They report greater mobility, quicker return to work, and improved quality of life. The literature states individuals with public insurance are more likely to receive a prescription for medication for their pain compared to those with commercial insurance who are more likely to receive a referral for conservative care. All individuals, regardless of insurance type, should have access to guideline-concordant, conservative, and safe treatment options, especially for MSK conditions. For lower-income Minnesotans the elimination of chiropractic coverage means pain may go untreated, improperly treated, or worsen health disparities.

(INSERT YOUR PERSONALIZED STATEMENT/PARAGRAPH about how this affects your patients and your community – here is mine as an example: As a chiropractor and researcher at Northwestern Health Sciences University (Bloomington, MN), I have seen firsthand the difference this care makes in patients’ lives, especially within vulnerable and marginalized populations that are disproportionately affected by chronic pain and lack of conservative care options.

Chiropractic care under MA is not an “added benefit”, it is an essential component of the healthcare delivery system already recognized under MA. Eliminating coverage based on provider

type is counterproductive, increases systemwide costs, and risks worsening health disparities by limiting access to effective, evidence-based care.

I urge you to reinstate chiropractic coverage under Medical Assistance. Doing so would align with national guidelines, reduce unnecessary medical spending, and most importantly, ensure that patients can access safe and evidence-based care.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I am happy to discuss this further or provide additional information and references.

Sincerely,

FirstName LastName, Credentials

Employment Information

City, MN