

September 17, 2012

Office of the Governor  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Minnesota State Innovation Model Testing Assistance

Dear Governor Dayton:

The Citizens League is pleased to submit this letter in support of the Minnesota application for State Innovation Model Testing Assistance through the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Innovation. Minnesota has long been a leader in health care innovation, and this proposal accelerates the state's progress forward on the path to improved health, improved care, and lower costs. The proposal's goals of more fully incenting providers to coordinate care in the best interests of patients are fully in line with the Citizens League's policy positions.

The Minnesota Accountable Health Model put forth in the application will drive innovation across the state by addressing current barriers that prevent coordination and integration of health care with mental health, chemical health, public health, long-term supports and services, and social services. We support the vision of the Minnesota Model in which these services are organized around the needs of patients and communities, not administrative silos, and that financial incentives should support this patient-centered care. We are ready to enter Minnesota's next era of health care transformation and, as a citizen-based nonprofit in our state, the Citizens League is ready to collaborate with the state on these efforts.

The Citizens League's work in health and health care – most recently the recommendations of the 2008 Health Care Transformation Task Force, on which I served, and citizen engagement through the Citizen Solutions project – shows that the incentives in the health care system must be more strongly oriented towards achieving best health for patients, and that institutions throughout the community must be better oriented towards supporting health. Minnesota citizens and the leaders of our health care institutions see this need and are ready to work towards such change.

The Model Testing Assistance will provide critical investments in areas such as health information technology, infrastructure, practice transformation, workforce and community engagement that will enable us to break down traditional funding and service silos and use our dollars more wisely. The support for the Minnesota Model described in this proposal is urgently needed to fully realize the care delivery and payment transformation that is underway throughout our state.

Only by aligning our work across sectors will we achieve better health for individuals, families, and communities, and sustainable costs. We strongly support the State's application and appreciate your consideration of our efforts.

Sincerely,

  
Sean Kershaw  
Executive Director



*Common ground. Common good.*

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