



February 25, 2026

Dear Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA), representing over 10,000 physicians and physicians-in-training across the state, I want to emphasize the essential contributions that the Hennepin Healthcare System, including the Hennepin County Medical Center, offers Minnesota's health care infrastructure.

Hennepin Healthcare serves a disproportionate number of uninsured and underinsured patients, providing care regardless of their ability to pay. Preserving this safety-net function protects vulnerable Minnesotans, while also stabilizing the broader health care system. If Hennepin Healthcare's capacity were diminished, patients in every region of Minnesota would face delayed care, longer transport times, and increased risk during their most critical moments.

Patients, providers, and other systems depend on Hennepin Healthcare for our state's care delivery system. It is Minnesota's premier Level 1 trauma center for both adult and pediatric patients, home to the state's regional burn and hyperbaric centers, and a leading teaching institution that trains many Minnesota's physicians. Hennepin Healthcare is one of Minnesota's most important physician training sites, with many of these physicians ultimately practicing where they are needed most - in rural and underserved communities. Protecting Hennepin Healthcare's training pipeline is essential to sustaining Minnesota's health care workforce and ensuring access to care across the state.

In recent months, Hennepin Healthcare has faced unique challenges. As federal and other funding sources become scarcer, the system has been forced to make difficult financial decisions. In addition, many of their patients and employed healthcare providers have been profiled and targeted by federal immigration enforcement. These challenges must be overcome if Minnesota is to continue as a leader in health outcomes and access to care.

I urge you to prioritize solutions that secure Hennepin Healthcare's financial stability and preserve its critical role in Minnesota's health care infrastructure. The health and safety of patients across Minnesota depend on it.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mattson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association