Action Alert
March 12, 2013

Tell House Human Services Conferees NOW: Reduce Parental Fees; Support the Senate's Position in the Health and Human Services Bill

➢ Action Needed:

Contact Representative Huntley NOW at 651-296-2228 or rep.thomas.huntley@house.mn.
Give him this message:

> *"Please support the Senate's language on parental fees in the final health and human services spending and policy bill. The Senate language reduces fees for families who must pay them to access medical care and services for their child with disabilities."*

➢ Background

More than 8,000 Minnesota families pay a monthly fee to the State of Minnesota for medical care and/or services that are essential to keeping their children with disabilities healthy, at home, and in the community. Those fees are billed on a sliding scale based on income.

To balance the budget over the past decade, state lawmakers have at times turned to increased parental fees as one solution. This has made those fees a financial burden and unaffordable for many Minnesota families. These families typically pay health insurance premiums for medical care for the rest of their family in addition to the fees. For some, fees have been as high as a family's mortgage payment or equal to the amount of state taxes the family already pays. Some families have seen their monthly bill go up by 200% or more as a result of fee hikes, drained their savings accounts, or drawn down retirement accounts.

The Minnesota House and Senate have each passed their health and human services omnibus bill (i.e., overall policy and spending bill) for this legislative session. The Senate bill includes some relief to families paying these fees; the House bill does not. A conference committee of House and Senate members are looking over the two bills and working out all the differences between them

Representative Thomas Huntley is on the conference committee. Please contact him NOW, and urge him to support the Senate position on parental fees. Thanks for your advocacy!

Achieve with us.