

MEMO

To: Members of the Press
From: Linden Zakula, Deputy Chief of Staff
Topic: It's Back
Date: March 14, 2017

Rep. Steve Draskowski's dangerous proposal to strip Minnesotans of essential health care benefits is back. Today, at 3:00PM CT, the [House Commerce and Regulatory Reform Committee will consider this legislation](#) (HF2026), which would allow insurance companies to sell junk policies that leave Minnesotans without coverage, when they need it most.

On January 19, 2017, Rep. Draskowski offered a similar amendment to the health premium relief bill that would have allowed insurance companies to sell health policies in Minnesota ***that would not cover chemotherapy, diabetes treatments, hearing aids for kids, maternity benefits, and dozens of other conditions and treatments that are currently guaranteed under Minnesota law.***

Seventy-one Republicans voted for and passed the amendment on the House floor. But facing public scrutiny, including opposition from the AARP the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) the measure was stripped from the bill in conference committee. Now, emboldened by Republican measures in Washington that mirror the Draskowski proposal, Republicans have brought the measure back to life at the Minnesota Legislature, granting it a full hearing today.

Essential Health Benefits Eliminated with Draskowski Bill

The bill (HF2026) authored by Rep. Steve Draskowski would authorize health insurance companies to sell policies to Minnesotans ***WITHOUT*** these essential health benefits:

62A.041, subdivision 2: Requires coverage of **maternity benefits**

62A.0411: Requires that maternity benefits must provide coverage of **48 hours of inpatient care following a vaginal delivery** and a minimum of **96 hours for a C-section.**

62A.042: Requires that **newborns must be covered** from birth on family policies.

62A.043: Requires that certain **dental disorders** are covered (surgical and nonsurgical treatment of temporomandibular joint disorder and craniomandibular disorder)

62A.047: Requires that **prenatal services and children's health services** must be covered, including preventive care, immunizations, developmental assessments and laboratory services.

62A.149, subdivision 1: Requires that treatment for **alcoholism** and **chemical dependency** must be covered.

62A.151: Requires that treatment for "**emotionally disabled children**" in a licensed residential treatment facility must be covered at the same level as inpatient hospital coverage.

62A.152: Requires coverage of **mental health services**.

62A.153: Requires coverage of **outpatient medical and surgical services**.

62A.154: Requires coverage of DES related conditions.

62A.155: Requires coverage of services for **ventilator-dependent persons**.

62A.25: Requires coverage of **reconstructive surgery** related to injury or illness, and **congenital diseases**.

62A.265: Requires coverage of treatment for **Lyme disease**.

62A.: Require coverage for scalp hair prostheses for people who have **alopecia**.

62A.30: Requires coverage of **diagnostic procedures for cancer**.

62A.304: Requires coverage for removal of port-wine stains (a type of birthmark).

62A.305: Requires that coverage cannot be reduced or denied based on a diagnosis of **fibrocystic breast conditions**.

62A.3075: Requires coverage of **cancer chemotherapy treatments**.

62A.308: Requires that anesthesia and hospital charges be covered for **dental care for children under 5**, the **severely disabled** and other medical conditions that require these services.

62A.3093: Requires coverage of **diabetes treatment**.

What Minnesotans Are Saying

The last time Rep. Draskowski and Minnesota Republicans tried to eliminate a basic guarantee of essential health benefits, here is what Minnesotans had to say:

AARP Minnesota

“AARP opposes changes to our current law that calls for a standardization of benefit that provides individuals access to a minimum benefit package that protects individuals both medically and financially. We believe the House language will result in individuals getting substantially different benefits across the State – and potentially inadequate benefits.

“AARP believes that all benefit packages should cover services across the continuum of care, including prevention and wellness, primary care, care coordination, emergency care, hospitalization, prescription drugs, mental health care, rehabilitation services, end-of-life care, home care, dental and vision, and long term care. Furthermore, we believe benefit packages should include services to meet the needs of people within

the range of health and medical needs and the standards need to reflect the care generally required by people across the age spectrum, including women, children, and those with chronic conditions and disabilities.

“As a principle, we believe that all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable, quality health care coverage that provides adequate financial protection against health care costs.”

--- Mary Jo George, AARP Minnesota’s State Director of Advocacy
Letter to Minnesota Conferees on SF1, January 24, 2017

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Minnesota

“...The House bill would allow a health plan company to sell health plans that do not contain any of the state or federal mandated health care services as long as they offered ONE plan that covered all the mandates.

“While we understand that the House is trying to address the rising costs of health care, the problem is that there are several mandates that pertain to mental health and substance use disorder treatment and we believe that health plans – all plans offered in the state – should cover the mandates related to mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

“In order to build our mental health system, private insurance must cover mental health treatment. We are asking people to contact their own legislators (State Senators and Representatives), especially if your elected official is sitting on the conference committee.”

--- NAMI Minnesota Action Alert:
“Call Your Senators and Representatives Now,” January 22, 2017

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