



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

October 25, 2016

Representative Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
Room 463, State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Senator Thomas Bakk
Senate Majority Leader
Room 3113, Senate Office Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Representative Paul Thissen
House Minority Leader
Room 267, State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Senator David Hann
Senate Minority Leader
Room 147, State Office Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Legislative Leaders:

Last Friday, I expressed the hope that that DFL and Republican legislators could set aside the politics of the Affordable Care Act, work together, and find a short-term solution for those Minnesotans, who face major increases in the cost of their health insurance. I proposed that the approximately \$313 million, which is scheduled to be added to the existing \$1.9 Billion Reserve on December 2nd, be instead used to provide financial assistance to those Minnesotans, whose premium increases would cost an excessive percentage of their incomes. The House and Senate Democrats have also expressed support for this approach to provide financial relief for individuals. The Reserve is intended for "Rainy Days." Right now, it is pouring on some Minnesotans.

I said that our plan should be agreed upon before November 1st, so that the Minnesotans needing our help can know what it will be, before the Open Enrollment Period begins. As soon as the four Caucuses, the Lt. Governor, and I have agreed upon a plan, and the four Caucus Leaders, the Lt. Governor, and I have agreed to the parameters of a Special Session, I will call it.

This timetable requires the four Caucuses to decide quickly how they want to address these issues, whether by hearings, committees, or special working groups. Our administration stands ready to meet with your designated members and design a plan. Only then can we know whether or when a Special Session would be necessary to implement it.

If this work is not completed by November 1st, I am willing to see it continue for a short while thereafter. However, Minnesotans deserve to know what help they can expect to receive from the State, if not before the start of Open Enrollment, as soon as possible thereafter.

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Kindly indicate to me very soon how you intend to proceed. I leave it to the four of you to assume the responsibilities of convening your desired meetings, setting a timetable for your completion, and gaining the support of your Members to assure its enactment.

Again, the Lt. Governor's and my administration are ready to work with you, as you request it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mark Dayton
Governor