

Minnesota hospitals: economic engine and nation-leading care providers

When creating jobs and growing the economy, hospitals' economic impact needs to be the focus of this legislative session. Proposals that threaten one of the state's most significant economic engines do not make sense. At a time marked by so much uncertainty, lawmakers need to ensure that hospitals remain viable assets in their communities, support other businesses, and stimulate economic activity.

■ Hospitals' total statewide impact: \$27.2 billion and 214,108 jobs

- The average hospital in Minnesota employs 264 people, with the largest hospitals employing more than 6,000 people and more than 25% employing over 750 staff.
- In many Greater Minnesota communities, the hospital is the largest employer.
- Hospitals provide high-quality, skilled jobs.
- Minnesota's non-profit hospitals re-invest in the community.
- Hospitals generate additional economic activity in our communities by purchasing services and supplies.

■ Cuts to services, job losses and higher uncompensated care costs

- Hospitals play a crucial role in a health care system that includes hospice, nursing homes, ambulance services, physicians and clinics – those services are at risk.

- Hospitals must evaluate how many beds they can safely keep open – potentially limiting availability for any patient.
- As more people are left without health coverage, emergency rooms become the primary source of care – increasing uncompensated care costs that get passed on to other consumers through higher private insurance premiums.
- More job cuts will come.

■ Neighbors, Co-Workers, friends and hard-working community members

Budgets are about dollars and cents but they affect real people.

Who will be impacted by cuts to hospitals?

- Families with children make up more than 72 percent of Medicaid enrollees.
- The woman who's working two jobs to make ends meet but doesn't have insurance.
- The farmer or sole proprietor who doesn't have a health insurance alternative.
- The guy who has a disability and simply needs care.

Preserving access to affordable health care and supporting our nation-leading health care system are Minnesota values.

