



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

GAMC Enrollees Need You To CALL NOW

February 19, 2010

On Thursday, February 18th, the Minnesota House voted on and overwhelmingly passed a bill that would temporarily restore the GAMC program for the next 16 months. The Senate quickly concurred, and this bill, with massive bi-partisan support, went to the Governor.

Within hours, Governor Pawlenty vetoed this bill, cutting off health care for Minnesota's poorest and sickest residents. GAMC enrollees will lose access to GAMC-funded health care in 40 days **unless you act**.

First, we need to thank our Representatives for their support, and encourage them to step forward and continue to act in the best interests of their communities, their constituencies, and people living in poverty and crisis by voting to override the Governor's veto.

Then, we need to ensure that both Democrats and Republicans support health care coverage for the poorest and sickest Minnesotans. Tell your member this should not be a partisan issue, and that they should vote to override the Governor's veto.

Background:

General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) offers health care coverage to the poorest adults in the state of Minnesota. The Governor eliminated funding for the program last spring with a line item veto and further reduced funding with unallotments. Without action by the legislature, coverage is gone April 1, 2010. The House and Senate both passed GAMC reform bills, and on Thursday, February 18th, the Governor vetoed it.

Recommended Action:

Call or email Your Minnesota State Representative today! [Click here](#) to find your state representative or call **(800) 657-3550**.

#1 -Thank your Representative for their vote to save GAMC.

#2- Ask your Representative to vote to override the Governor's veto of the GAMC bill.

Let them know that the bill:

- saves money and jobs
- protects thousands of military veterans who rely on the program for their health care
- keeps our communities safe
- protects the dignity of Minnesota's poorest and sickest adults

Call today. GAMC enrollees need you to stand with them against the Governor's cuts.

Highlights of GAMC Bill (Rep. Erin Murphy - HF2680): This bill was designed to meet the health care needs of enrollees and address the expectations set forth by the Governor: reduce the cost of the program, include reform and do not raise taxes.

- This bill reduces costs. It will cost \$281 million over 16 months. The original GAMC program would have cost over \$500 million over the same time period.
- This bill provides health coverage for 85,000 people over 16 months (Governor's plan covers only 28,000 people for up to six months under Transitional MinnesotaCare).
- This bill ensures those with mental health issues (70% of GAMC enrollees) continue to have access to their prescription drugs. This will help people maintain stable housing and reduces costs to public safety and other community services.
- This bill saves jobs. Hospitals across the state are preparing to cut hundreds of jobs if this legislation does not pass.

Thanks for all you're doing for justice. Together, we can save GAMC.

For further information, contact:

Patrick Ness at nessp@archspm.org or 651-291-4484

or

Adam Robinson at robinsona@archspm.org or 651-252-1041