



## THE 2023-2024 PLATFORM REPORT TO THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

To: Chair: Sen. Melissa h. Wicklund SD 51  
Vice-Chair: Sen. Alice Mann SD 50

Sen. Liz Boldon SD 25 Sen. Robert J. Kupec SD 04  
Sen. John A. Hoffman SD 34 Sen. Kell Morrison SD 45

*The resolutions listed below are from part of our DFL platform, known as the Action Agenda and have been identified as potentially being relevant to the work of your committee. The support for each resolution is given; the number of Congressional Districts and Organizing Units backing the resolution, and the percentage of approval by the delegates to the State Convention.*

### **Universal Single-Payer –**

Support legislation for government sponsored universal healthcare, wherein "universal" means all persons are fully covered for healthcare. [ 8 CDs, 45 OUs, 86%]

### **Protect and Extend Medicare/ Medicaid**

Supports legislation to protect and extend Medicare/Medicaid by capping Medicare out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, including insulin, at \$2 000 per year, creating hearing, vision, and dental benefits under Medicare, expanding Medicaid to cover more nursing home and assisted living expenses for seniors, and protecting Medicare/Medicaid from benefits cuts. [7 CDs, 18 OUs, 86%]

### **Women’s Reproductive Rights**

supports women’s right to safe, legal, accessible, affordable abortion services and reproductive health services, and strong measures to equalize access to reproductive services among all populations and classes. [8 CDs, 15 OUs, 93%]

### **Support Roe v. Wade**

Supports Roe v. Wade and see any attempt to control reproductive rights as a violation of our core democratic principles of human rights, equality, privacy, and individual freedom. [8 CDs, 16 OUs, 93%]

### **Dismantle racial, gender, and economic injustice**

Supports taking bold action to dismantle racial, gender and economic injustice in our democracy, institutions, and public programs. [7 CDs, 14 OUs, 84%]

### **End-of-Life**

Support passing legislation to allow terminally ill adults a full range of end-of-life options, including medical aid in dying, permitting Minnesotans to make the best end-of-life decisions for themselves and their families. [8 CDs, 27 OUs, 81%]

### **Affordable Housing**

Expand resources for a range of affordable housing: apartments, townhouses, and starter/small homes for individuals, families, and seniors throughout the state. Protect public housing and balance the rights of renters with the interests of property owners. [7 CDs, 20 OUs, 88%]

### **Clean Water Infrastructure**

Support substantial investments to upgrade and expand our failing public water infrastructure including water, sewage and stormwater systems to assure safe drinking water and to protect aquatic ecosystems from pollution. [8 CDs, 52 OUs, 92%]

### **Unsafe Pesticides**

Support policies to reduce or eliminate the use of unsafe pesticides such as glyphosate, neonicotinoids, and chlorpyrifos in agriculture and on recreational land or lawns and require any business selling plants to let the public know whether or not the plant has been treated in any way with systemic pesticides from the neonicotinoid family. [8 CDs, 47 OUs, 83%]

### **Common Sense Gun Violence Prevention**

Support common sense gun violence prevention measures to keep guns out of the hands of people who've proven themselves to be dangerous, including criminal background checks on all gun sales and extreme risk protection orders (often referred to as red flag laws). [8CD's, 62 OU's, 91%]

### **Homelessness**

Homelessness and housing are state-wide issues. All levels of government must renew their commitments to decent housing options, affordable for all. Solutions must include safe neighborhoods, removal of income and racial barriers to decent housing and ensuring no one must spend more than 30% of their monthly income on permanent housing. [4 CDs, 8 OUs, 80%]

### **PFAS Chemicals**

Support the reduction or banning of toxic and carcinogenic substances, such as harmful PFAS chemicals, in consumer goods, and require newly developed similar substances to be proven safe before widespread manufacture and use. [ 7 CDs, 23 OUs, 88%]

### **MPCA Citizen Board**

Support the restoration of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Citizen's Board to its full capacity and authority.[6 CDs, 7 OUs, 74%]

### **End Privatization of Public Institutions**

Support ending the practice of privatization of public institutions and services, including prisons, hospitals, and educational institutions, and also including other services formerly conducted by public governmental agencies and civil servants. [ 6 CDs, 10 OUs, 81%]

### **Mental Health**

Support the availability and funding of mental health and substance abuse treatment so all individuals who are in need of help, including children, have sufficient access to these services. [7 CDs, 9 OUs, 91%]

### **Expand Minnesota Care**

Supports taking bold action to ensure every Minnesotan is able to easily access needed medical care without worrying about cost by expanding MinnesotaCare, so this high-quality public program is available to all Minnesotans. [ 8 CDs, 32 OUs],85%

### **Drug Pricing**

Supports state and federal processes to limit the increase in costs of prescription medications and over-the-counter drugs. [ 7 CDs, 20 OUs, 91%]

### **Aging in Place**

Supports expanding, improving, and fully funding all programs that constitute a viable safety net for Minnesota's senior citizens to stay in their homes, provide in-home services to improve seniors' ability to age in place, and provide efficient, safe, convenient transportation options. [ 8 CDs, 20 OUs, 87%]

### **Mental Health Support for Public Safety**

Support a model of public safety that includes more professionals who are trained in mental health issues. [4CD's, 5OU's, 90%]

### **Bedside Act**

Supports the Keep Nurses at the Bedside Act legislation that sets a maximum number of patients that a Registered Nurse can take care of at one time; and provides mental health and professional development resources that will Minnesota keep nurses working at the bedside. [ 5 CDs, 7 OUs, 79%]

### **Lead in Drinking Water**

The DFL supports the reduction of lead exposure in people and animals by eliminating lead in drinking water, investing in lead remediation in Minnesota homes and other locations, and banning the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle. [ 7 CDs, 31 OUs, 90%]

### **Green New Deal**

Supports a Green New Deal to rapidly cut greenhouse gas emissions and provide an equitable energy future, establishing millions of high paying jobs, affordable housing, investing in multi-modal transportation options; to provide clean air and water, healthy food, and a sustainable environment for all. [7 CDs, 35 OUs, 80%]

### **Oppose Corporatization of Healthcare**

The DFL supports preventing further corporatization of health care, stronger regulations to assure community benefit, financial and geographic access to quality health care services based on need, not profit.[6 CDs,8 OUs,82%]

### **Partial Wage Replacement Leave**

Support legislation that would provide up to 12 weeks of at least partial wage replacement leave in order that workers are able to take care of their own serious medical condition, that of their family member, or to bond with a new child. [8 CDs, 16 OUs, 84%]

### **Personal Care Attendants**

Support an increase in pay and benefits for Personal Care Attendants and in-home health care workers who provide services to assist seniors' ability to stay in their homes; and raise the reimbursement rate to home-health agencies that employ PCAs to ensure a skilled and available personal care workforce. [3 CDs, 12 OUs, 91%]

### **Support for Indigenous Women**

Support funding and implementation of programs to end the exploitation and murder of missing indigenous women. [7CD's, 7OU's, 92%]

### **Gender Affirming Health Care**

Support the rights of all to gender-affirming healthcare, that may be life-saving, and oppose gender-denying harassment and discrimination in schools, workplaces, and public accommodations.

### **Ban Unnecessary Surgery Under 12**

Supports banning all medically unnecessary and irreversible surgeries that alter sex and gender on intersex individuals prior to the age of 12. [Approved by the State Central Committee]

### **Restore 100 beds to Mn State Veterans Home**

Support immediate and full funding of work to restore the 100 skilled care nursing beds to our Minnesota State Veterans Home. [ 5 CDs, 7 OUs, 78%]

### **Veteran's Health Care**

Support fully funding and staffing the Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Create a separate budget for the private sector Veterans Community Care Program (VCCP), which will be fully managed by the VHA. Require all VCCP healthcare personnel to meet the same competency standards required at VHA facilities, including treating PTSD, TBI, MST and risk for veteran suicide. [5 CDs, 5 OUs, 81%]

### **Insurance coverage of Neuropathy Care**

Support legislation to require Tri-Care, Medicare, VA Health Administration, and all private insurance to cover the cost of neuropathy care for Veterans, and all Americans who suffer from diabetic foot-related issues. [4 CDs, 5 OUs, 74%]

*We present this report as a summary of the passion of our grass roots, a vision of our caring society. We appreciate your support for the DFL's legislative priorities as you move forward this session. Thank you for supporting the people of Minnesota.*