

HENNEPIN COUNTY
MINNESOTA

Federal Legislative Platform
2017

February 2017

Hennepin County is the 34th most populous county in the United States, and the largest in Minnesota. Within the county are 45 cities, including Minneapolis, and the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport.

Hennepin County
Intergovernmental Relations

www.hennepin.us



Safety-Net health services

- Protect and promote the financial vitality of safety-net hospitals like HCMC in the context of reforms to Medicaid, Medicare and other government funded/regulated health care programs
- Increase supplemental payments and disproportionate share payments to safety-net hospitals to offset any decrease in Medicaid payments or any increase in uncompensated care
- Support adjustments in the Medicare readmission penalty to account for the social determinants of health that unfairly penalize hospitals that serve a large proportion of low-income seniors
- Maximize state flexibility under Medicaid to encourage innovation in the delivery of care that improves health, rewards efficiency

Health and human services

- Oppose the block granting of Medicaid and repeal of the Affordable Care Act, while maximizing state flexibility under Medicaid to encourage innovation in the delivery of care that improves health and rewards efficiency
- Support welfare reform initiatives that streamline and simplify access to services and encourage innovation at the local government level
- Support public health interventions to address critical public health needs including, but not limited to emergency preparedness, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, teen pregnancy prevention and the epidemic of opiate overuse

Transportation

- Support programs under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act at their authorized levels, including:
 - Southwest light rail line
 - Bottineau light rail line
 - Orange bus rapid transit line
- Support cash and innovative financing options for a comprehensive infrastructure package

Taxes

- Oppose elimination of the tax-free status of municipal bonds and preserve the low-income housing tax credit, both of which are highly effective tools to leverage private investment in critical public and private infrastructure

Criminal Justice

- Support criminal justice, mental health and sentencing reforms that address jail and prison overpopulation and facilitate offender re-entry

Housing and community development

- Maintain adequate funding for the Community Development Block Grant
- Support funding for HOME and other programs that advance affordable housing initiatives at the local level

The Hennepin County Board of Commissioners approved the 2017 federal platform with a 6-1 vote.

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