



Dear UCare Provider Partner:

I am writing to provide you with an update regarding the recent DHS procurement award that would completely exclude UCare from participation in either the Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP) or the MinnesotaCare (MnCare) health insurance plan beginning in January 2016.

Since the DHS announcement in late July, there has been an incredible outpouring of support for UCare from members, community leaders, elected officials, counties and our valued provider partners. These collective voices have eloquently urged the Dayton Administration to enable UCare to continue providing coverage for the 370,000 culturally diverse, immigrant and low income PMAP and MnCare individuals that have been our core mission for the past 30 years.

To those of you that have already contacted the Governor, we offer our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Events last week provided further evidence of the growing and sustained support for UCare's continued participation in PMAP and MnCare. A committee in the Minnesota State Senate held a hearing on August 18 to better understand the implications of the DHS procurement results. This four-hour hearing produced strong bipartisan support for UCare and its proven track record of community service and innovation. Additionally, an editorial in the Star Tribune called for UCare to be added back as a health plan option in the 55 counties where Commissioners formally endorsed our continued participation. In addition, 30 counties have already indicated interest in appealing the DHS procurement decision.

UCare leadership also met directly last week with Governor Dayton and DHS Commissioner Jesson to voice our concern with the significant member disruption and further market consolidation that will occur if the procurement decision is not altered.

Despite our sustained efforts to reach an equitable solution, at this time the State has decided to allow the procurement and enrollment process to unfold without UCare. Therefore, we were left with an option that was viewed as a last resort. Last Wednesday, UCare filed a legal action in Ramsey County District Court seeking a temporary suspension of open enrollment activities and an order for DHS to negotiate a contract with UCare in the counties that recommended us. We believe that, despite the State's best intentions, it acted improperly and contrary to law in deciding to exclude UCare, and we look forward to the court's fair review of our arguments.

If you agree that the DHS decision to exclude UCare from participation in PMAP and MnCare is wrong, and have not already contacted the Governor's Office to make your voice heard, we respectfully urge you to do so in the coming days. Given the significant impact on counties, we also encourage you to contact your county board members and county human or social services staff in the counties you serve, to encourage their formal appeal of the DHS procurement.



UCare is not seeking to replace any other health plan selected to participate as part of the DHS procurement. Our request to the Governor is for UCare to be included as an additional health plan option for PMAP and MinnesotaCare in 2016, on a cost neutral basis to the State, thus ensuring consumer and provider choice in serving this important and vulnerable population.

Thank you for your support and consideration of this request. If you do contact the Governor we respectfully ask that you forward any correspondence or communication with his Office to us at ucare2016@ucare.org for our records. The Governor can be reached by either telephone or email, as follows:

Office of the Governor

Telephone: 651-201-3400 or 1-800-657-3717 (toll free)

Email: Go to <http://mn.gov/governor> and click on "contact us". Click on the hyperlink under "Email" and an email form will display. Here is the direct link. <http://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/>

Please note that the DHS decision does NOT impact any of the other UCare product lines, including our Medicare Advantage, MSHO, MSC+, SNBC or individual/MNsure products, which continue unchanged in the market.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at ucare2016@ucare.org.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Ball".

Patricia Ball
Vice President, Provider Relations and Contracting
[UCare's Provider Website Homepage](#)