

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
<https://oversight.house.gov>

September 3, 2025

The Honorable Tim Walz  
Governor  
State of Minnesota  
130 State Capitol  
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.  
St Paul, MN 55155

Ms. Shireen Gandhi  
Temporary Commissioner  
Minnesota Department of Human Services  
444 Lafayette Road  
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz and Commissioner Gandhi:

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform writes to provide you the opportunity to clarify the record with respect to statements made during Governor Walz's appearance before the Committee. Additionally, the Committee is continuing its oversight of the Biden Administration's open-border policies, their devastating social and fiscal impact on American citizens, and critical federally funded health care programs and services. Specifically, the Committee is investigating waste, fraud and abuse in several Medicaid programs due to the Biden Administration's failure to enforce U.S. immigration laws and the resulting expansion of benefits for illegal aliens. According to the Congressional Budget Office, federal and state taxpayers paid more than \$16.2 billion to provide Medicaid-funded emergency services to illegal aliens during the first three years of the Biden Administration as a result of the influx.<sup>1</sup> The Committee requests documents and communications related to the State of Minnesota's Medicaid program.

On June 12, 2025, the Committee held a hearing titled "A Hearing with Sanctuary State Governors."<sup>2</sup> During an exchange in the hearing, Governor Walz testified that illegal immigrants do not receive coverage under Minnesota Medicaid.

Q: Governor Walz, I am certainly aware of that. I served many years in legislature, and I have many friends there. I understand that, but, in essence, they are creating a sanctuary State in practice. And so we are going to talk a little bit about the legislature because just earlier this week, both chambers of the Minnesota legislature passed H.F. 1, and you are probably familiar with it. I don't know if you have signed it yet or not, but it repeals Minnesota care eligibility for illegal immigrants adults, ages 18 and older. And with that recent

<sup>1</sup> Letter from Phillip L. Swagel, Dir., Cong. Budget Off., to Jodey Arrington, Chairman, H. Comm. on the Budget (Oct. 2, 2024), *available at* [https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-10/Arrington\\_Letter\\_EmergencyMedicaid\\_Immigration\\_final.pdf](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-10/Arrington_Letter_EmergencyMedicaid_Immigration_final.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> "A Hearing with Sanctuary State Governors," H. COMM. ON OVERSIGHT & GOV'T REFORM (Jun. 12, 2025).

repeal of eligibility for illegal immigrants, a policy that, initially, I mean, it was after my time, was enacted, in your time, 2023 under your administration, now being reversed with those budget negotiations, I was just wondering, first of all, do you know how many illegal immigrants were covered and are currently covered in Minnesota with Medicaid?

A: I don't have the exact number. It is not Medicaid. It is State that does this through MinnesotaCare, different program.<sup>3</sup>

Governor Walz's statement is likely misleading based on the programmatic relationships between Minnesota's Medicaid program, also known as Medical Assistance (MA), its counterpart Emergency Medical Assistance (EMA), and the MinnesotaCare program. Further, the Committee understands that Minnesota has co-mingled funds for the EMA and MinnesotaCare programs potentially enabling federal funds to cover illegal immigrants under the MinnesotaCare program.

Minnesota provides health care and other services to illegal aliens through EMA.<sup>45</sup> In 2023, the State's Democratic-controlled Legislature made all illegal aliens eligible for MinnesotaCare, effective January 1, 2025.<sup>6</sup> MinnesotaCare is a state and federal basic health program that provides a low-cost health insurance option to individuals without access to employer sponsored coverage and that have incomes above Medicaid thresholds.<sup>7</sup> MinnesotaCare is funded from the Minnesota Health Care Access Fund, which also funds the MA program, meaning Minnesota is using funds that should go to ensuring Americans receive strong Medicaid coverage, to cover illegal immigrants.<sup>8</sup> Following MinnesotaCare's expansion, enrollment among illegal aliens ballooned to 17,400—more than double what the state initially

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Emergency Medical Assistance, MINN. DEP'T OF HUM. SERVS.. (Jun. 10, 2025), *available at* <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/ema.jsp>. *See also* EMA Covered Services, MINN. DEP'T OF HUM. SERVS., (2023), *available at* <https://mn.gov/dhs>; *See also* Ctrs. for Medicare & Medicaid Servs., State Medicaid Manual § 3211.

<sup>5</sup> Medical Assistance (MA), MINN DEP'T OF HUM. SERVS., *available at* <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/adults/health-care/health-care-programs/programs-and-services/medical-assistance.jsp>.

<sup>6</sup> MinnesotaCare: Overview, MINN. DEP'T OF HUM. SERVS., 11 (Nov. 7, 2024), *available at* [https://www.mnsure.org/assets/Policy-and-Implementation-MinnesotaCare-Expansion-2025\\_tcm34-652437.pdf](https://www.mnsure.org/assets/Policy-and-Implementation-MinnesotaCare-Expansion-2025_tcm34-652437.pdf). [hereinafter "MinnesotaCare Overview"].

<sup>7</sup> Medicaid and MinneotaCare Basics, MINN. DEP'T OF HUM. SERVS.

<sup>8</sup> *Health Care Access Fund*, Minn. Management and Budget, (Feb. 2024), *available at* <https://mn.gov/mmb-stat/documents/budget/operating-budget/forecast/feb-2024/feb24-hcaf.pdf>.

projected<sup>9</sup>—with a cost of \$550 million over four years.<sup>10</sup> The Minnesota Legislature has since voted to end MinnesotaCare eligibility for illegal aliens effective January 1, 2026.<sup>11</sup>

To determine how federal money is being used to pay for health care and other services for illegal aliens in the aftermath of the Biden Administration’s disastrous immigration policies, the Committee requests the following documents and communications, covering the time period January 1, 2019 to the present, as soon as possible, but no later than September 17, 2025.

1. The names of all state and local programs that provide health coverage and other services for illegal aliens,<sup>12</sup> including but not limited to “Emergency Medicaid” and “Medicaid”;<sup>13</sup>
  - a. If any of these programs are administered by a Managed Care Organization (MCO), provide all contracts between Minnesota, its affiliated agencies and government entities, and all MCOs.
2. All processes and procedures related to the verification of enrollment eligibility in your state’s “Emergency Medicaid” and “Medicaid” programs, including any related to the verification of immigration status;
3. The number of individuals denied “Emergency Medicaid” and “Medicaid” due to an unsatisfactory immigration status, including individuals that later applied through presumptive eligibility;
4. A list of every “Emergency Medicaid” and “Medicaid” covered procedure and benefit performed on or received by an illegal alien;
5. The cost of every “Emergency Medicaid” and “Medicaid” covered procedure and benefit performed on or received by an illegal alien;
6. All documents and communications related to Minnesota’s charity care programs for illegal aliens, including how these programs are funded;
7. All actuarial rate certification documents for Minnesota’s Medicaid Managed Care Programs, including but not limited to documents prepared by Mercer;

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<sup>9</sup> Legislative News and Views – Rep. Shane Mekeland (R), MINN. HOUSE OF REPS. (Apr. 21, 2025), *available at* <https://www.house.mn.gov/members/profile/news/15500/50688>.

<sup>10</sup> *Id.*

<sup>11</sup> H.F. 1, 94th Leg., Special Sess. (Minn. 2025) (enacted), ch. 2; see Minn. Stat. § 256L.04, subd. 10(c) (2025); *See also* Steve Karnowski, *Minnesota Budget Deal Cuts Health Care for Adults Who Entered the U.S. Illegally*, AP (June 9, 2025).

<sup>12</sup> All questions using the terms “illegal aliens” or “illegal alien” include noncitizens with an unsatisfactory immigration status.

<sup>13</sup> All questions using the terms “Emergency Medicaid” or “Medicaid” include the state’s Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

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8. Your state’s “Emergency Medicaid” eligibility categories for individuals and groups with an unsatisfactory immigration status (eligibility category);<sup>14</sup>
  - a. For each eligibility category, identify the individuals and groups that qualify for “Emergency Medicaid” coverage.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate “any matter” at “any time” under House Rule X. To arrange for the delivery of documents and to address concerns about the accuracy of Governor Walz’s testimony, please contact the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Majority staff at (202) 225-5074. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



James Comer  
James Comer  
Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

cc: The Honorable Robert Garcia, Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

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<sup>14</sup> 42 U.S.C. § 1396b(v)(1)-(3) (2025).