

Dear Client,

With the elections fast approaching you are hearing quite a bit from candidates who are addressing the number-one issue of concern to voters – health care.  Specifically, on health insurance we are hearing things from interest groups trying to impact the election using talking points that seem to come from outside of Minnesota and do not reflect what our marketplace has offered since the mid-1970s.  Did you know that people with pre-existing conditions have been guaranteed coverage in Minnesota since 1977?  Unlike many other states Minnesota has protected people with pre-existing conditions for decades before the passage of the ACA, also known as Obamacare.  So when groups accuse candidates that their plan would take away coverage for people with pre-existing conditions you should be skeptical.  I have yet to see a candidate propose such a plan.

Recent state level law changes included a reinsurance plan that lowered rates in the individual market by 20% in 2018 and will lower rates for 2019 from 7% to 27% depending on the plan you pick.  Other state-based reforms have brought additional options to the market.

There are however candidates who are proposing plans that could take away your current coverage choices or at the least threaten the long-term viability of the market that brings you many choices.  Plans like the MinnesotaCare Buy-In would set a government plan in direct competition with the private marketplace using taxpayer resources to give these plans an unfair advantage.  Since the MinnesotaCare Buy-In plan underpays providers, your access to your doctor will likely be more limited.  The underpayments could bankrupt many local clinics and hospitals according to the Minnesota Hospital Association.  It is likely if the MinnesotaCare Buy-In were to actually pass, insurance carriers would pull out of the individual insurance market and the small group market would eventually have fewer choices as well.

The long-term sustainability of the insurance marketplace and thus the number of choices you have as a consumer will be greatly impacted by this election, so I encourage you to look closely at the candidates and their positions on these important issues.  Should any of the campaign rhetoric about health insurance confuse you, don’t hesitate to contact me.  I am here to answer your question.

Sincerely,

Your Agent