



**LAND
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PROJECT**

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It Is Time to Demand Bold Action on the Rural Healthcare Crisis

Petition enclosed calls for bold action from Minnesota's next Governor

We want thousands of Minnesotans to call on our next Governor to make addressing the rural healthcare crisis a top priority. As Minnesotans, we value looking out for each other and communities where everyone can live a good life. But in our rural communities, we are experiencing unaffordable and ever-increasing health insurance premiums and deductibles, while hospitals and clinics are closed, and services cut. At the same time, we see major hospital systems and insurance companies posting large profits. Our current healthcare system is not making sure everyone can get the care they need.

On the enclosed petition, we call on the newly-elected Governor to join us in working for bold, real solutions that include:

- **A moratorium on the closing of rural hospitals or clinics.** When hospitals and clinics close, rural communities suffer.
- **Establish a people-centered Rural Healthcare Access Taskforce.** The Governor must appoint a taskforce of rural Minnesotans to create a plan for action to ensure that rural communities have meaningful healthcare.
- **Make MinnesotaCare available as an option for all Minnesotans so that everyone can have a healthcare plan available to them that provides meaningful care.**

Here is how you can be a part of this movement:

- **Sign, share, & return the enclosed petition to LSP by November 10.** Gather signatures from your friends and neighbors. If you want more copies, we can get them to you. Your signature and two or three others on the enclosed petition will help raise our collective voices for bold solutions to this rural healthcare crisis now.
- **Join us on November 13 to deliver the petition to the Governor-elect at the State Capitol in St. Paul.** Our new Governor will be in the process of setting his priorities. We need to let him know this must be one of them.
- **Contact LSP organizers Johanna (507-523-3366) or Paul (507-342-2323) if you plan to join us on November 13 and/or you want to get more involved with the petition drive!**

(OVER: see more on why taking action now matters)

Why taking action now matters

The Land Stewardship Project wants more farmers stewarding the land; strong, vibrant, healthy communities; and a democracy where directly affected people have a say over decisions that impact our lives. We believe we're each stronger when we all have the chance to prosper, and that the well-being of people and the land are connected.

But one way we see this vision being blocked, these values violated, is in the excessive power and control major corporations have over our economy and democracy. *There is no clearer example of this than our healthcare system.*

For many, insurance companies provide no plans with meaningful, affordable coverage. Rural hospitals and clinics run by major hospital systems are being closed or seeing essential services taken away. Too many decisions are made based solely on what can make these corporations the most money, not on what communities need. People can't fully contribute to our communities, because choices about what kind of work we do must be based on the need to acquire healthcare coverage. Care of the land suffers because farmers must work off-farm jobs or pay exorbitant amounts for healthcare, leaving them without time, energy, and resources to invest in stewardship.

Solving a crisis like this requires people coming together, uniting around clear demands for real change, and building power to achieve them. **That's why we're launching this petition drive calling on Minnesota's next Governor to take concrete steps to address the rural healthcare crisis.** Instead of the dominant story we too often hear about healthcare – that we're each on our own and not having affordable, accessible care is a personal failure – we will lift up the truth that this is a problem we can only solve together.

Want to get more involved?

- Take copies of the petition with you to gather signatures at any **meetings or events** you're attending this fall. Try to secure a few minutes on the agenda to speak about the petition to the whole group, *and pass it around on a clipboard so everyone in the room has a chance to sign.*
- Amplify the message of the petition by writing a **letter to the editor** or posting on your **social media** about the rural healthcare crisis and the actions we need our next Governor to take. Personalize it by sharing your own healthcare story or why this issue matters to you.
- We need volunteers to help with **data entry** of petition signatures, **making phone calls** to other LSP members and supporters about the petition drive, and more. Call Johanna or Paul to find out how you can help!

Questions? Ideas? Need more petition copies? Contact LSP organizers **Paul Sobocinski**, 507-342-2323, sobopaul@landstewardshipproject.org, or **Johanna Rupprecht**, 507-523-3366, jrupprecht@landstewardshipproject.org.

Save the date and join us at the State Capitol on November 13!