

## A NEW PATH FORWARD

Dear Minnesotans, we are at an inflection point.

Our state, like so many others across the country, faces a myriad of critical healthcare challenges that impact people and their communities. From limited access, workforce shortages, and inequities in care, to increasing costs and declining reimbursements.

Minnesotans have said, loud and clear, that the status quo is no longer working for them. We hear you, and we agree.

That is why the University of Minnesota and Essentia Health share a vision for a new path forward and propose a solution that benefits all Minnesotans.

Together, we are proposing the formation of a new, not-for-profit healthcare entity for you. Our goal is to infuse the very best of what our organizations have done for decades.

Whether it's providing world-class care to patients in rural and urban communities, and everywhere in between. Training 70% of the state's physician workforce. Or developing new innovations that lead to life-changing treatments. It's time for us to build on the strengths of the University of Minnesota and Essentia Health to improve healthcare for all.

We have invited Fairview Health Services to join us in forging this new entity, and creating a seamless system of care that can best support the needs of patients and all of Minnesota. This is just the start of many transparent and comprehensive discussions we will have, as we work collaboratively to envision a brighter future for healthcare in the communities we are so privileged to serve.

It's a new day for healthcare in Minnesota.

We are ready to join with Minnesotans in the years ahead to address head-on the greatest health challenges impacting our state. Together, we can meet the critical needs of today, and anticipate the demands of our future. We believe this is not only possible — it is our duty.



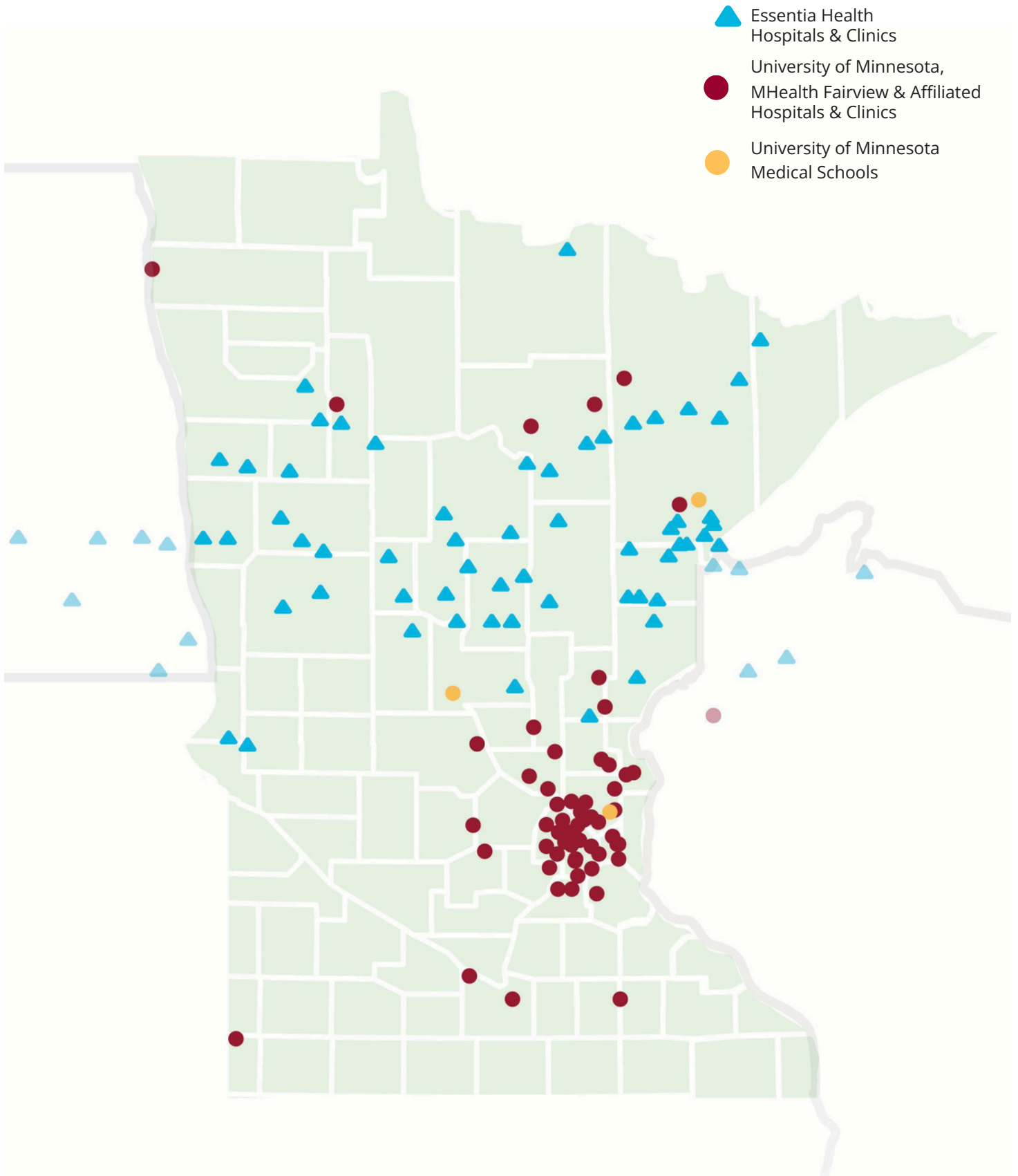
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**Driven to Discover®**

Rebecca Cunningham, MD  
**President, University of Minnesota**



**Essentia Health**

David C. Herman, MD  
**CEO, Essentia Health**



The University of Minnesota also provides care through 2,500+ established clinical training partnerships across Minnesota and beyond. See all locations: [z.umn.edu/clinicaltraining](https://z.umn.edu/clinicaltraining)

# A TRANSFORMATIONAL HEALTHCARE SOLUTION TO BENEFIT ALL OF MINNESOTA



## For patients

- Provide compassionate and accessible care across Minnesota, including rural, urban, suburban, and Tribal communities.
  - Improve recruitment of providers to rural communities.
  - Connect patients to specialty healthcare providers close to home.
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## For healthcare providers

- Build a broader platform to support all patients across Minnesota.
  - Foster a vibrant learning environment for medical and health sciences.
  - Uphold Minnesota's strong historic tradition of clinical research and discovery.
- 



## For healthcare employees

- Provide facilities, resources, and support for fulfilling careers in patient care.
  - Create a growing, well-managed and culturally-aligned system.
  - Promote innovation and enhance our mission of serving patients and communities.
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## For all Minnesotans

- Bring world-class research that advances treatments and cures for all of Minnesota.
  - Ensure we have a robust, prepared and exceptional future healthcare workforce.
  - Overcome Minnesota's most complex healthcare challenges.
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## For University of Minnesota students

- Provide an enriching educational environment with connections to world-class faculty, researchers, and providers.
- Maintain a unique breadth and depth of programs in health sciences and beyond.
- Develop a statewide network for learning, training and employment in urban, rural and Tribal communities.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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## Q: What are you announcing today?

**A:** The University of Minnesota and Essentia Health are proposing the framework of a bold solution to write the next chapter of healthcare for Minnesota. We propose formation of a new not-for-profit entity to:

- Address the most urgent healthcare needs of the state in new ways—for today and for the future,
- Build on the strengths of the University of Minnesota and Essentia Health to lead and operate this new entity,
- Serve the needs of current and future patients and help create the next generation of health professionals,
- Ensure the future of academic medicine in Minnesota and essential financial support to the University of Minnesota Medical School.

This proposed framework is not just about exchanging partners, but instead would fundamentally change the structure of our healthcare delivery – a new path forward. It would extend the University's historic work, rooted in a public mission to provide world-class health workforce education, research and patient care to benefit the entire state. It would embrace and extend the clinical excellence, public service, rural focus and aligned culture of Essentia Health.

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## Q: Why is this new vision necessary for Minnesota?

**A:** This proposed framework for a solution responds to Minnesota's most pressing healthcare challenges: increasing costs; flat or declining reimbursement; limited access; critical workforce shortages; and structural inequities that amplify health disparities.

Compassionate, world-class care can and should be delivered close to home when patients need it the most. Existing doctor-patient relationships can and should remain intact. Physicians and other health professionals can and should maintain fulfilling clinical careers in service to patients from across the state, nation and world.

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## Q: How would this proposed framework benefit patients?

**A:** Minnesota patients know well the challenges of healthcare delivery in our state.

- High/ever-increasing costs,
- Long waits,
- Less access and aging facilities,
- Critical workforce shortages,
- Deep structural inequities that amplify the health disparities that tear Minnesota families and communities apart,
- An aging population that creates an unsustainable healthcare future for all of us.

The proposed framework for an integrated solution would address these issues head-on by creating a new approach to health that takes full advantage of the University of Minnesota's unique teaching, research, outreach and service mission and combines it with Essentia's success in both urban and rural settings. The proposed solution sets the stage for a broader conversation with Fairview and other health providers as well as the State of Minnesota—to reconsider the health future for all Minnesotans, improve all our health care systems and seek new ways to collaborate.

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[newpathforward.umn.edu](http://newpathforward.umn.edu)



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