



For Immediate Release
January 17, 2012

Contact: Greta Bergstrom, 651.336.6722, greta@takeactionminnesota.org

**New Video Warns Against "Fox Guarding the Hen House"
On MN's New Health Exchange**

St. Paul, MN - A new video released by TakeAction Minnesota today urges Governor Dayton to not let the "fox guard the hen house" on Minnesota's new Health Insurance Exchange. The video encourages members of the public to contact Governor Dayton and urge him to prevent the health care industry from gaining seats on the governing body that will oversee the state's new Health Insurance Exchange starting in 2014.

"Those individuals selected to oversee Minnesota's new health care exchange will have enormous influence over health outcomes for the people of Minnesota," said Liz Doyle, Associate Director of TakeAction Minnesota. "The new Health Insurance Exchange must be able to put the needs of consumers and small businesses first. Strong conflict of interest standards for the health care industry are critical to allowing the Exchange to meet this goal."

Key issues related to the design of the new Exchange are being deliberated by an exchange task force appointed by Governor Dayton in 2011, and convened by Commerce Commissioner Michael Rothman. The Exchange task force is expected to vote on Wednesday on several recommendations related to Exchange design, including the composition of the governing body.

The Exchange will serve as a website portal for thousands of Minnesotans to access health insurance options beginning in 2014, primarily individuals and small businesses. The Exchange will also set standards for qualified health plans, administer tax credits, and simplify health care choices available to consumers.

Several other states have already chosen to bar health insurance companies, brokers, and other industry representatives from sitting on the Exchange Board out of concern about financial conflicts of interest for entities that will also sell products or have other financial connections to the products sold via the Exchange.

To view the video, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldntGKowRgc> or visit the organization's YouTube channel at www.TakeActionMinnesota.org.

###

TakeAction Minnesota is a statewide organization of 14,000 individual and 24 organizational members working in coalition to advance social, racial and economic justice.