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STATEMENT OF ANDY CZAJKOWSKI

PRESIDENT AND CEO

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD OF MINNESOTA

Thank you, Attorney General.

From the first days of our organization more than 60 years ago, the central mission of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota has remained constant: providing broad access to affordable health care services.

Today, as Minnesota's largest health plan, our commitment to this mission is more important than ever. The changing health care environment demands that we be even more innovative in our efforts and more diligent in the stewardship of the trust placed in us by the 1.9 million people served by BCBSM health plans.

Fulfilling our central mission has taken many different courses:

- Reforms we first proposed in 1990 resulted in more affordable and accessible health coverage for employees of Minnesota's small businesses. We recently celebrated the first anniversary of these reforms taking effect. In the last 12 months, more than 1,500 Minnesota small businesses have enrolled in new health plans. These plans were made possible by MinnesotaCare, the state's innovative health reform legislation. Many of these businesses were able to offer health coverage for the first time.
- Last year, we saved customers nearly \$595 million through selective network development, cost-containment strategies and health care management programs.
- And, we are translating the promise of health care reform articulated in MinnesotaCare into the reality of health care coverage through new plan options and benefit designs.

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