



buyers health care action group  
**BHCAG**

## **HEALTH CARE PURCHASER DECLARATION**

Our employees deserve the best possible health care in the world. Healthy employees are more productive, have less absenteeism and bring energy to the workplace. Healthy employees are the foundation for a healthy economy.

Our companies, as purchasers of health care, are responsible for providing health care coverage to millions of people every year. We take this responsibility very seriously. It is too great an investment in human and financial capital not to. This is why we are joining together now to advocate for an important health system upgrade that will empower employees to take charge of their own health and maximize their precious health care dollars.

This upgrade consists of making a universal, secure personal health information repository available to every individual, regardless of health status, insurance or employment. This repository, controlled solely by the individual, also will allow them to track their care and medications, implement healthier lifestyles and manage family wellness. This repository also is:

- Interoperable with multiple health plans, providers and other data holders
- Life-long
- Family focused
- Non-commercialized
- Comprehensive and customizable for the individual

This is not an untested initiative. Several health plans and providers already have made great strides in offering online personal health records and health management tools. Utilization is increasing as individuals realize the benefit of managing their own care as costs go up and employer contributions are scaled back. However, current offerings are not portable or integrated, resulting in inefficiencies and redundancies in care every time individuals switch jobs or health plans.

We invite and encourage all health information “data holders,” - health plans, payers of medical, dental and pharmacy benefits, health care providers, pharmacies, home care device developers, health clubs, and others - to join us in increasing the efficiency, cost effectiveness and value of personal health information management by supporting the use of a universal, secure health information repository and management site for all Minnesotans. This way, individuals can connect and communicate electronically with providers, research and choose health care treatments and make informed choices about their health. The technology already exists. Unifying behind it now is the next step.

**3M**, Jack Arland  
**Best Buy**, Charlie Montreuil  
**Carlson Companies**, Deidre Serum  
**CDI**, Bob Baumgartner  
**G&K Services**, Nance Lee Mosquer  
**General Mills**, Jeanne Denz  
**Medtronic**, Roger Chizek

**State of MN**, Nathan Moracco  
**SUPERVALU**, Kathy McIntire  
**Target Corporation**, John Mulligan  
**U of MN**, Dann Chapman  
**US Bank**, Bruce Wilson  
**Wells Fargo**, Gretchen Lennon