Letter to the Editor
Most should be e-mailed. Put into body of e-mail, not as an attachment. Make sure you personalize the letter.
Should be no more than 250 words (the one below is around 150).

To the Editor:

1. Recognize the state's financial mess
    - $5 to $7 billion deficit
    - Economic hard times
    - Bad economy

2. Solution shouldn't fall disproportionably onto health care and human services
    - When the economy is bad more people to government for help
    - Depression and anxiety increase during these times
    - People are losing their health insurance
    - Mental health providers are in an even more precarious state since so much of their funding is through public programs
    - PCA cuts will make it hard for people to live in the community
    - Can't cut inpatient hospital rates for psychiatric care and then increase costs for commitments – that's unconscionable.

3. For every action there is a reaction
    - Eliminating MinnesotaCare simply means more uncompensated care and those costs result in an increase in everyone's premiums
    - Without access to mental health care the numbers of people with serious mental illnesses in our jails will simply go up
    - People will be using higher costs services instead of simply paying for community treatment

4. We all need to step forward to help
    - Increased taxes have to be a part of the solution, there's no way that we can simply cut our way out of this mess

To the Editor:
As I read and hear about our worsening economy and our state budget crisis I worry about what will happen to those who need help in our society. As the mother of an adult son with mental illness, I know that if he didn't have health insurance (MinnesotaCare) he wouldn't be able to pay for his medications, treatment and community supports. What do we expect will happen if

the legislature accepts the Governor's recommendations and eliminates MinnesotaCare? More people will be unable to access necessary care. What do we expect will happen if the legislature accepts the Governor's cuts to community mental health providers? Many will be forced to close their doors. We will pay one way another – and the costs of jails and prisons are infinitely more expensive to our pocketbook and our souls. Let's not let this happen. We need a solution that protects access to care and community supports.

Sincerely,

Name and address