AMC Statement on Budget Surplus

ST. PAUL, MN – The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) issued the following statement following the news that the state of Minnesota has a $1.513 billion budget surplus.

“Any surplus dollars should be used by the legislature and the governor to reimburse the federal government for any payment and billing miscalculations by the state,” said Lac qui Parle County Commissioner Todd Patzer, First Vice-President of AMC. “Counties should not be expected to be financially responsible for errors by the Department of Human Services because we are not at fault and have no ability to plan or prepare for these unexpected costs.”

“This is an issue that impacts all 87 counties and we are united in our position that counties should not be held liable for these costs from the state,” said Lake County Commissioner Rich Sve, President of AMC.

At AMC’s annual County Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, Governor Tim Walz addressed this issue saying, “My commitment on IMD to hold the counties harmless is absolutely unwavering.” IMD (Institution for Mental Disease) refers to the category of Medicaid repayments that the state has to make to the federal government for substance abuse treatment and for which the state is seeking repayments from counties.

Counties are committed to working alongside DHS to get the state funding necessary to reimburse the federal government.

The Association of Minnesota Counties is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state’s 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. The association works closely with the legislative and administrative branches of government in seeing that legislation and policies favorable to counties are enacted. In addition, the Association provides educational programs, training, research and communications for county officials.

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