

# STATE OF MINNESOTA

Executive Department



RECEIVED

AUG 18 2021

President of the Senate

## Governor Tim Walz

### NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT

**Jessica Kennedy**

Because of the special trust and confidence I have in your integrity, judgment, and ability, I have appointed you to the office of:

**Representative of Consumers Eligible for Public  
Health Care Program Coverage**

**MNsured Board of Directors**

Effective: August 18, 2021

Expires: May 5, 2025

This appointment carries with it all rights, powers, duties, and emoluments granted by law and pertaining to this position until this appointment is superseded or annulled by me or other lawful authority or by any law of this State.

Signed and sealed August 13, 2021.



Handwritten signature of Tim Walz in black ink.

Tim Walz  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Steve Simon in black ink.

Steve Simon  
Secretary of State

Replacing: Phillip Norrgard

Filed on August 13, 2021  
Office of the Minnesota  
Secretary of State,  
Steve Simon

# Application for the position Representing the interests of Minnesotans eligible for public health coverage

## Part I: Position Sought

---

**Agency Name:** Minnesota Insurance Marketplace Board

**Position:** Representing the interests of Minnesotans eligible for public health coverage

## Part II: Applicant Information

---

**Name:** Jessica Kennedy

**Phone:** (612) 293-9942

**County:** Ramsey

**Mn House District:** 42B

**US House District:** 4

**Recommended by the Appointing Authority:** False

## Part III: Appending Documentation

---

### Cover Letter and Resume

Type	File Type
Cover Letter	application/pdf
Resume	application/pdf

### Additional Documents (.doc, .docx, .pdf, .txt)

Type	File Name
No additional documents found.	

**Veteran:** No

## Part V: Signature

---

**Signature:** Jessica M. Kennedy

**Date:** 2/21/2021 9:47:20 AM

RECEIVED  
AUG 18 2021  
President of the Senate

Jessica M. Kennedy

124 Primrose Ct., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127; 612-293-9942 VP; jhodek1879@comcast.net

February 20, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for considering my application for a seat on the Minnesota Insurance Marketplace (MNSure) Board. In my profession as an attorney, I tend to stand out because I am Deaf. In my application for the MNSure Board, I likely stand out as a Department of Human Services (DHS) and MNSure alumni.

For more than six years, I contributed to MNSure's growth and successes, finally leaving my post in 2019 as the MNSure Deputy General Counsel and Policy Director. There, I was extremely proud to contribute to a talented team dedicated to executing systematic change for Minnesota through the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

My time at MNSure was devoted to consumers and customer service. I designed, operationalized, and managed MNSure's Accessibility and Equal Opportunity (AEO) office. I did the same for MNSure's dispute resolution office, managing a budget exceeding \$1.6 Million and including over 5,000 appeals per year. Our process was never about "winning" administrative appeals; instead, it was about ensuring that each consumer had a meaningful experience and that MNSure consumers received equitable eligibility decisions. Before MNSure, I worked for DHS as an attorney and contributed legal advice to the abounding public programs it champions for Minnesotans.

I adored my time working for the state of Minnesota; the team is truly remarkable. Yet, I could not turn down an opportunity to more intensively serve "my" community. In my current role as VP of Legal and HR for Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc. (CSD) and in my role as Board Member for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bar Association, I'm able to contribute to opportunities that enhance, equalize, and engage the disability community. Through my work as a disability advocate, I serve a diverse and sometimes complex community through supporting a myriad of efforts. CSD is a large national non-profit with over 1,000 employees and an annual revenue exceeding \$40 Million, but we serve individuals.

I am intimately familiar with MNSure policy and operations. I am further informed of how state government operates and supports the MNSure structure. I am also familiar with the numerous MNSure stakeholders (e.g., insurers, providers, agencies, navigators and brokers). I would be honored for an opportunity to represent the needs of vulnerable populations, and especially people with disabilities. Thank you again for your consideration.

Most Sincerely,

Jessica M. Kennedy

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2021

President of the Senate

## Jessica M. Kennedy

124 Primrose Ct., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127; (612) 293-9942 (VP); jhodek1879@comcast.net

---

### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

I'm a high-energy, multi-faceted attorney and disability advocate. I'm uniquely capable of bridging transformational progress with tangible, tactical results; and I thrive building, orchestrating and contributing to teams. Recognized as an intuitive and collaborative leader, I build trust with employees and stakeholders of diverse experiences, backgrounds and management levels to achieve results. Naturally curious, passionate, and adaptable, I have a track record of delivering creative legal, HR and public policy solutions under pressure.

### LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc., Austin, Texas (virtual), September 2019-Present**

##### *Promoted to VP of Legal & Human Resources*

- Support various campaigns to empower individuals and organizations to create opportunities that enhance, equalize, and engage the deaf community (e.g., fundraising and grant writing support, coaching potential job candidates, drafting contracts for filmmakers to influence public perceptions on disability).
- Provide HR business consulting advice and recommendations to national non-profit with nearly 1,000 employees, including recruiting, hiring, training, leave management, overseeing terminations, and offboarding.
- Enable employee relations and promote a high performing workforce across multiple states while keeping manageable attrition.
- Investigate and advise on sensitive employee relations issues and employee workplace conflicts.
- Advance diversity, equity, inclusion and compliance efforts throughout CSD policies, practices, and training.
- Draft, analyze, and review business contracts that empower individuals and organizations to create positive change in our community.
- Perform research and provide recommendations on reducing corporate liability for large national nonprofit with over \$40 Million in annual revenue.
- Support the review of deaf-owned business investment proposals for CSD Social Venture Fund.
- Advise the Chief Executive Officer and leadership team on a wide variety of complex corporate legal matters, including contracts, employment, data privacy, intellectual property, securities, taxation, and governance.
- Supports the company's legal defense and response to all subpoenas, legal complaints, and EEOC charges.

#### **MNsure, St. Paul, Minnesota, December 2012-September 2019**

##### *Promoted to Deputy General Counsel & Policy Director*

- Hired, supervised, and led a team of six legal analysts; additionally, indirectly manage two to four attorneys.
- Advised and advocated for MNsure's Board of Directors, the MNsure Executive team, and Managers across the agency.
- Provided representation of MNsure's position on legal issues in a variety of venues, including anticipated or filed litigation, administrative hearings, legislative hearings, and meetings of the MNsure Board of Directors.
- Designed, operationalized, and managed MNsure's dispute resolution operations with a budget exceeding \$1.6 Million and over 5,000 disputes/year.
- Developed an alternative dispute escalation process, more accessible to consumers, and resulting in estimated savings of \$1 Million/year.
- Directed and provided analysis and response to legal-related correspondence.

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2021

## Jessica M. Kennedy

124 Primrose Ct., Vadnais Heights, MN 55127; (612) 293-9942 (VP); jhodek1879@comcast.net

- Coordinated with the Attorney General's Office or other outside counsel on any pending or anticipated litigation.
- Prepared executive management for highly visible testimony at the Minnesota Legislature and United States Senate; also analyze potential impacts of state and federal legislation, draft bill language, and propose policy ideas.
- Monitored relevant federal rulemaking, and draft publicly available agency comments.
- Designed, operationalized, and managed MNSure's Accessibility and Equal Opportunity (AEO) office.
- Served as ADA Coordinator, Affirmative Action Officer, Limited English Proficiency Coordinator, Digital Accessibility Co-Coordinator, and managed all contracts pertaining to language interpretation and translation, CART, captioning, and other accommodations.
- Reviewed comments for public release on highly sensitive, complex issues.

**Minnesota Department of Human Services, St. Paul, Minnesota, June 2009-December 2012**

*Promoted to Legal Management Office Attorney*

- In-house staff attorney for state government agency with over 6,000 employees, advised on healthcare and data privacy issues.
- Trained and managed day-to-day activities of paralegal and law clerks and provide support to the Privacy Official and Deputy General Counsel.

**2008 Republican National Convention, St. Paul, Minnesota, Summer 2008**

*Operations Intern, responsible for ADA accommodations*

- Created, coordinated, and implemented an accessibility plan for persons with disabilities, compliant with the ADA for 45,000 person event.
- Interviewed, evaluated, and selected vendors to provide ADA accommodations during the convention.

## EDUCATION

**William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota**

*Juris Doctor, May 2010*

- Magna Cum Laude; Dean's List

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota**

*Bachelor of Arts Degree, Political Science, May 2005*

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2021

President of the Senate

## PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS AND INTERESTS

- Member of the Minnesota Bar, 2010
- Member of the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, 2019
- Fluent in American Sign Language
- Board Member At Large for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bar Association
- Member of the National Association of the Deaf, Minnesota Association of Deaf Citizens, Hearing Loss Association of America.
- Grandma's Marathon, 2005; Twin Cities Marathon, 2012; Twin Cities Marathon 2018; Yoga Instructor RYT 200

## Search Public Officials Reporting

Q

# Statement of economic interest for a public official

Official: Kennedy, Jessica

Login to Follow (<https://logon.cfb.mn.gov/sso/login?returnTo=https://cfb.mn.gov/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/official/14469>) ➔

Statement last updated: 9/6/2021

Occupation: Attorney  
 Employer: Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc.  
 2028 E Ben White Blvd., #240-5250  
 Austin, TX 78741

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2021

Senate Engrossing

## Positions held

Agency	Position held	Appointment date	Appointment ends	Appointment authority
<a href="https://reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/agency/79900000/">MNsure Board (/reports-and-data/officials-financial-disclosure/agency/79900000/)</a>	Consumers Eligible for Public Health Coverage Rep	8/18/2021	5/5/2025	Governor

## Sources of income

Name of source	Relationship to source							
	Director	Officer	Owner	Member	Partner	Employer	Employee	Honorarium
Communication Service for the Deaf, Inc.							✓	

## Business or professional activity categories

None reported

## Securities

None reported

## Real property

None reported

## Pari-mutuel horse racing interests

None reported

RECEIVED

AUG 18 2021

Senate Engrossing