

What Minnesota Nurses Say We Must Do to Avoid a Health Care Shipwreck

Health care is intricately inter-related. If the proposed cuts for low-income people are implemented, they will have a negative effect on *all* Minnesotans seeking health care. The proposed measures won't save money in the long run, and don't address the serious problems in our health care system. Here are some that would.

- **Offer basic access to health care for all Minnesotans.** This will prevent illnesses and ailments from becoming critical—incurring both unnecessary human suffering and excessive public expense.
- **Prepare more nurses.** According to the Minnesota Department of Economic Security, Minnesota is already short 6 percent, or 2,436 nurses. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services predicts the shortage to grow nationally to 12 percent by 2010.
- **Prepare more nursing faculty.** The nursing shortage includes a shortage of nursing faculty, which limits student enrollments and decreases the number of graduates.

Produced and distributed by: Minnesota Nurses Association; Minnesota Association of Nurse Anesthetists ☞ Minnesota Association of Colleges of Nursing ☞ Minnesota Colleagues in Caring ☞ School Nurse Organization of Minnesota ☞ Association of Associate Degree Nursing Education Directors ☞ Minnesota Organization of Leaders in Nursing ☞ University of Minnesota School of Nursing and the Densford Center ☞ American College of Nurse Midwives ☞ Minnesota Association of Occupational Health Nurses ☞ Twin Cities Chapter of the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses ☞ Minnesota Practical Nurse Educator Directors Association ☞ American Association of Critical Care Nurses ☞ Minnesota Emergency Nurses Association

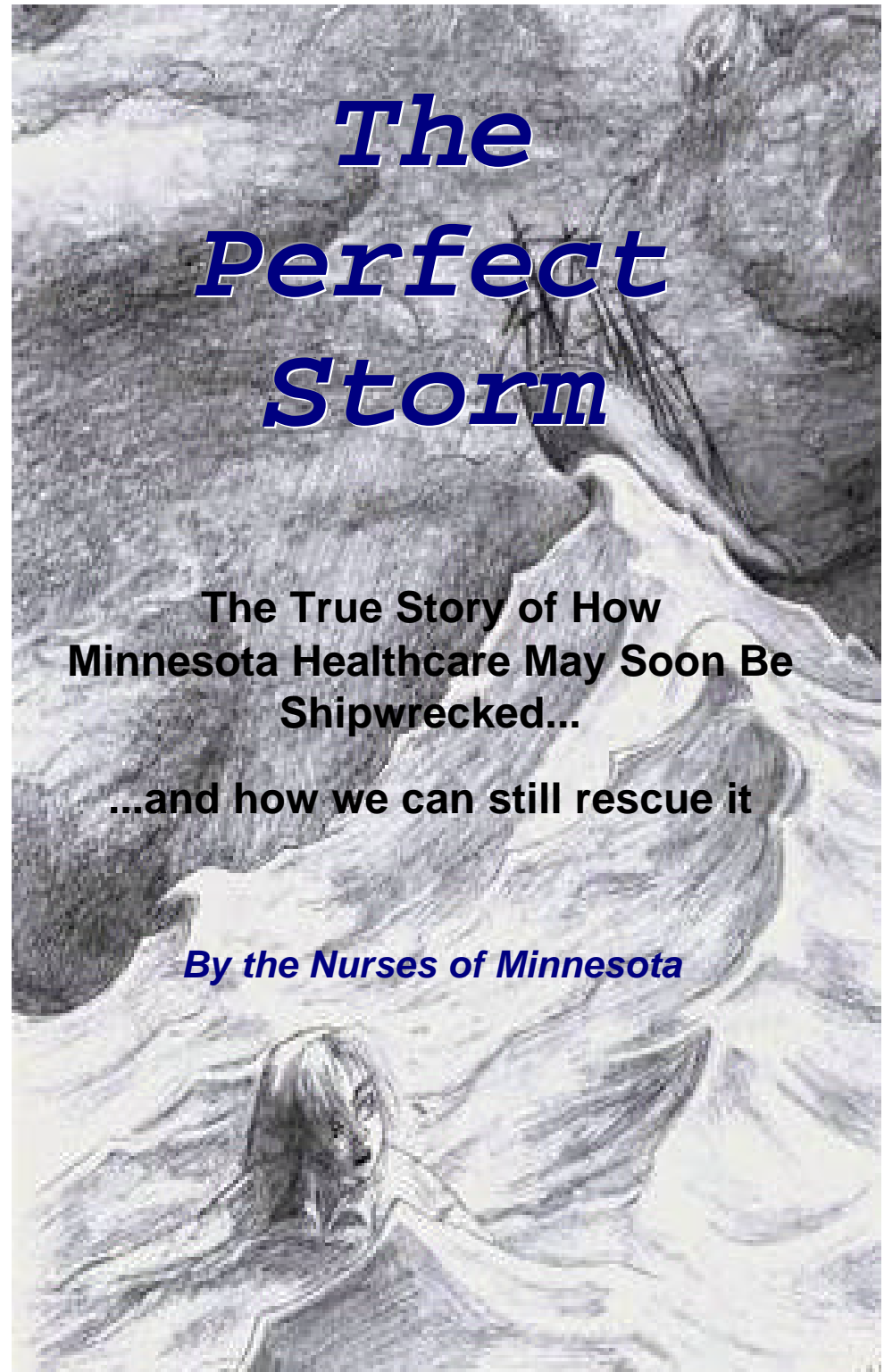
3/2003

The Perfect Storm

The True Story of How Minnesota Healthcare May Soon Be Shipwrecked...

...and how we can still rescue it

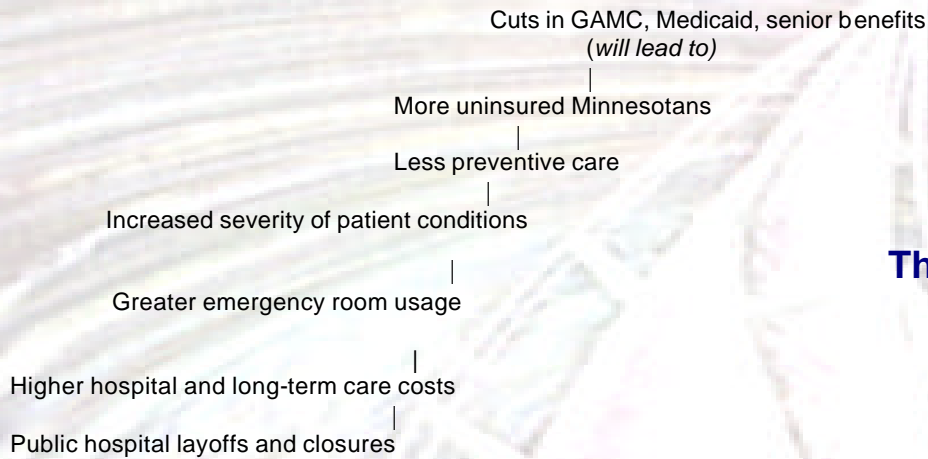
By the Nurses of Minnesota



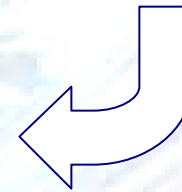
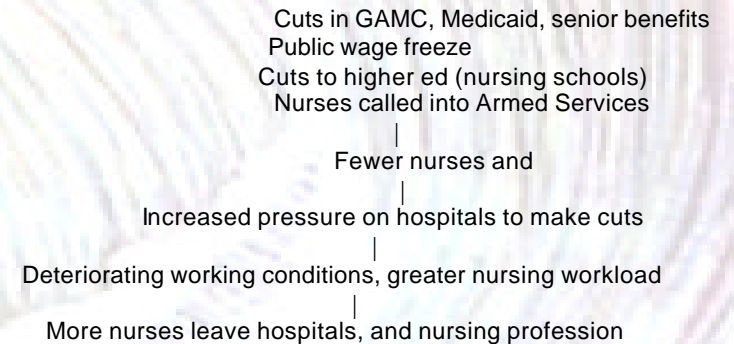
"With the nursing shortage, we have the elements of a perfect storm brewing."

MARILYN CHOW, R.N.: Vice President of Patient Care Services at Kaiser Community Care, Oakland, CA.;
Board member, Joint Commission on Accreditation of HealthCare Organizations

Anticipated cuts will cause demand for health care—including nursing care—to rise:



The same cuts will cause the number of nurses to fall:



Increased demand and fewer nurses mean:

Decreased specialty care

Decreased patient safety

Increased patient mortality

Hospital closings

(IOM Report 2001, AACN 2002, US Dept HHS)

The Bottom Line:

**Decreased access and decreased quality health care –
for every Minnesotan**