

February 27, 2023

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund  
Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Committee,

We are writing to express our support for SF1129, which will modify the composition of the Drug Formulary Committee (DFC) and change the process of updating the Preferred Drug List (PDL) to improve the patient experience, increase input from specialty providers with clinical prescribing expertise, and provide additional transparency.

The DFC is responsible for managing Minnesota's public health care programs PDL and evaluates whether drugs covered by public programs should be subject to prior authorization, and what the prior authorization criteria should be. The DFC analyzes non-public data from a third-party pharmacy benefits manager and makes its recommendation to the Commissioner.

As providers and patient advocates, we believe that to make decisions that are best for patients, we need to ensure that there is diverse experience on the DFC itself, including more consumer representatives with a direct connection to Medical Assistance, required representation from Greater Minnesota and participation from providers with expertise in rare disease, disability, and pediatrics.

We also believe that this process must be transparent, and open to the public. SF1129 would apply open meeting laws to the DFC; require that the DFC actively consult patient advocacy groups, appropriate medical specialists, and the Rare Disease Advisory Council; and announce the proposed actions, drug, and drug class at least 30 days in advance of a DFC meeting to allow adequate time for review and informed public comments.

We support provisions that would update the composition of the drug formulary committee and increase transparency and ask for your support of SF1129. For more information, please contact Sara Goodno, Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota Advocacy and Public Policy Manager, at [sgoodno@efmn.org](mailto:sgoodno@efmn.org).

Sincerely,

Aliveness Project  
ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action  
Network  
Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM)  
Autoimmune Association  
Children's Minnesota  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota  
Fairview Health Services  
Gillette Children's

Hemophilia Foundation of Minnesota/Dakotas  
Hennepin Healthcare System  
Minnesota Association of Community  
Mental Health Programs (MACMHP)  
Minnesota Breast Cancer Coalition  
Minnesota Consortium for Citizens with  
Disabilities (MNCCD)  
Minnesota Hospital Association  
NAMI Minnesota  
North Memorial Health  
Rainbow Health