



705 Raymond Ave. #100
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www.TakeActionMinnesota.org

RE: Support for S.F. 168

March 16, 2023

Chair Wiklund and committee members,

TakeAction Minnesota is a grassroots organization with over 15 years of experience working on state healthcare issues from Medicaid expansion to prescription drug costs. We are writing in support of S.F. 168.

Out of control prescription drug costs are a growing concern of TakeAction Minnesota members. Across the state, we have heard worries and horror stories from our members:

- A brother-in-law who died rationing insulin at 48 years old because he started a new job and couldn't access health insurance until after a 6-month probationary period;
- A young person unable hold down steady work since they can't afford the prescriptions drugs they need to be healthy;
- A man on a fixed income paying \$250 per month for essential medicine that costs \$20 in other countries;
- A woman with a rare disease treated by Xyrem, a drug developed by publicly funded research and costs \$192,000 per year;
- A woman in her 70s paying \$5,500 per year for prescription medicine;
- A graduate student whose life fell apart when they stopped taking their bipolar medication because they couldn't afford to pay \$700 per month.

We have a track record of making progress on drug costs in Minnesota. Emergency insulin, PBM reform, and the Transparency Act must be the beginning, not the end of the state's work. We have a strong blueprint to work from the Attorney General's Task Force on Lowering Pharmaceutical Drug Costs, which made the PDAB one of their top policy recommendations to the Legislature.

Drugs don't work if people can't afford them. We strongly support the establishment of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert Haider".

Robert Haider
Legislative Director