



612.822.7946 phone

612.822.9668 fax

[info@aliveness.org](mailto:info@aliveness.org)

[aliveness.org](http://aliveness.org)

3808 Nicollet Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55409

March 21, 2023

To: The Honorable Chair Wiklund  
Members of the State Senate Health and Human Services Committee

**Re: Letter of Concern – SF2067 Drug Purchasing Program**

Dear Senator Wiklund,

On behalf of a broad coalition of community-based service organizations, LGBTQ organizations, clinics, public health professionals, advocates, and people living with HIV, we offer our voice of concern regarding SF2067.

As a community that is directly impacted by high price drugs for life-saving medications, we applaud your efforts to address drug costs and access for Minnesota's most vulnerable populations. However, this legislation, as written, will have dramatic negative consequences on clinics and community providers serving low-income people living with HIV.

HIV clinics and organizations in Minnesota keep our doors open and provide critical services, in part due to our participation in the federal 340b program. This legislation would remove our ability to participate in the federal program that has served the community for decades.

HIV organizations qualify for the federal 340b discount program as a Ryan White entity. Entities are allowed to purchase medications at a reduced cost and as required by law, invest those saving back into the program.

SF2607 would block our participation in this program and eliminate funding for vital community programs and services that keep people living with HIV healthy and prevent new HIV infections.

We ask that you keep Ryan White/HIV organizations at the table as you explore this program further to prevent unintended consequences and that you seek solutions that do not cause harm to existing community services.

Sincerely,

**Matt Toburen**, Executive Director, The Aliveness Project

**Jeremy Hanson Willis**, Chief Executive Officer, JustUs Health

**Phoebe Trepp**, Executive Director, Clare Housing

**Mary McCarthy**, Executive Director, Rural AIDS Action Network

**Calvin Hylton**, HIV Programs Manager, Indigenous Peoples Task Force