



March 31, 2023

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for provisions in Senate File 2995 DE amendment

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Committee:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DE amendment for SF 2995, which will constitute the committee's omnibus bill for the session in combination with provisions from SF 49.

LLS encourages the committee to support the following patient-friendly provisions in the bill:

1. Drug Formulary Committee composition reform (Article 1, Section 11)
Bringing more patient voices to the table and improving public transparency in the Drug Formulary Committee's work will help the Committee make decisions that better meet the needs of the patients it serves.
2. All-payer claims data provisions (Article 1, Sections 25 to 27)
These provisions will deliver important transparency and more comprehensive data to inform the analysis of healthcare cost trends in Minnesota.
3. Health equity programs (Article 4, Sections 14 to 19, 44, 54, and 81)
Some groups—including but not limited to people of color, those with low incomes, people who identify as LGBTQIA and those who live in rural areas—face systemic social, economic and environmental disadvantages that can impact their care. The programs created in these bill sections will help Minnesota take overdue steps forward to address these disadvantages.
4. Coverage screening and billing protections for uninsured patients (Article 4, Sections 36 and 38)
Screening for presumptive eligibility for charity care or health insurance will provide essential protections to patients who may be uninsured yet eligible for coverage or cost-sharing supports. Similarly, billing protections will ensure that most uninsured Minnesotans are charged favorable prices for care. Both measures will reduce the risks and burdens of uninsurance.

5. Palliative Care Advisory Council (Article 4, Sections 73 and 82, plus markup spreadsheet)
Palliative care help patients, caregivers, and families on multiple levels. Minnesota's Palliative Care Advisory Council strives to improve access and quality in this field and will benefit from restored staff funding, the elimination of its sunset date, and a funded study of the value of a comprehensive palliative care benefit for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

LLS wishes to call your attention to one item that the omnibus bill has yet to address: fertility treatment and preservation coverage (SF 1704). LLS hopes your committee will amend SF 2995 to include the entirety of SF 1704's prescribed benefits for as many coverage markets as possible. No blood cancer patient, or parents of a young patient, should be put into a position where they must weigh the costs of fertility preservation services – needed only because of their cancer treatment – against the costs of the treatment itself.

LLS hopes your committee will support the policies outlined in our letter and welcomes the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



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