



03/31/2023

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to offer testimony to support the inclusion of funding for the Comprehensive Drug Overdose and Morbidity Prevention Act in the Health Budget.

I am a board certified nurse practitioner who works with unhoused and marginally housed adults in Saint Paul, Minnesota. I have been doing this work for four years and have been privileged to hear the stories and witness the lives of many people experiencing homelessness in the Twin Cities. One of my passions is caring for people who use drugs. I provide medication assisted therapies for substance use (such as suboxone) and educate my patients on how to avoid overdose and other substance use related injuries or illnesses.

In my time providing health care for this population, the number of drug overdoses experienced by my patients and their friends has increased significantly. According to the Minnesota Homeless Mortality Report, deaths from substance use are 10 times higher among people experiencing homelessness than the general Minnesota population. 1 in 3 deaths among people experiencing homelessness are caused by substance use- especially opioids.

These deaths, illnesses and injuries from substance use are preventable. The \$67 million dollars requested by Governor Walz for the Comprehensive Drug Overdose and Morbidity Prevention is critical to connect people with substance use treatment and harm reduction services in order to reduce the number of these preventable deaths among ALL Minnesotans, including our unhoused citizens.

Please re-instate this funding into the Health Budget. It is critical in keeping Minnesotans safe and alive.

Thank you,

Morgan Weinert, AGPCNP, PMHNP, AAHIVS  
Medical Director of Co-Located Sites  
Minnesota Community Care