



## National Association of EMS Physicians®

4400 College Boulevard, Suite 220, Overland Park, KS 66211

Phone: (913) 222-8654, Toll Free: 800-228-3677, Fax: (913) 222-8606  
info-NAEMSP@NAEMSP.org • www.NAEMSP.org

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### **Minnesota Chapter**

Established 2019

Nick Simpson  
President

Julie Houle  
Vice President

Aaron Klassen  
Secretary

Kari Haley  
Member at Large

Bjorn Peterson  
Immediate Past President

Representative Klein  
Chair of the Commerce and Finance Policy Committee

Re: SF 3532 – Morrison. Health care service prior authorization and coverage requirements modified, ground for disciplinary action against physicians modified, reports to the commissioner of commerce and the legislature required, data classified, and rulemaking authorized.

Senate Commerce and Finance Policy Committee Members:

The MN Chapter of the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) is writing to support the proposed legislation HF3578/SF3532.

Minnesota continues to be affected by the opioid epidemic as we see more deaths as well as non-fatal overdose year over year. The MN Dept of Health (MDH) reported over 1000 fatal overdoses in 2022. The MN Chapter of NAEMSP represents EMS Physicians and Professionals from around the entire state. We see first-hand that many of our patients are disadvantaged by barriers to care. The requirement for a prior authorization for life saving medications and treatments, such as Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) can cause patients to miss valuable opportunities to enter care. A missed opportunity to enter treatment too often results in another life lost.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a critical safety net and link to providing care for our entire state. The passage of this bill would allow for us to provide care in novel and more effective ways. We are already seeing prehospital initiated MOUD in Minnesota through Suboxone. This bill would allow for improved access to ongoing care and treatment, past the moment of acute life-threatening crisis.

Despite the opioid epidemic crossing every geographic, socio-economic, age, and cultural boundary – providing improved access to care would allow for EMS to create more innovative solutions to improve health equity in our state. This problem affects every resident of our state. Despite that, people have differing access to transportation, housing, food security, levels of health literacy, and financial means. EMS is at the center of Healthcare, Public Health, Public Safety, and Emergency Management. We are uniquely poised to increase the care options we provide to patients if given the right tools to do so. HF3578/SF3532 is one of those tools.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration as we work to keep our patients and communities safe.

Sincerely,

Nick Simpson, MD FACEP FAEMS  
President, MN Chapter of NAEMSP