



March 15, 2024

Chair Wiklund and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SF 4330, Sen. Hoffman's definition modification of usual and customary prices.

The Minnesota Retailers Association is comprised of 1,200 retail stores across the state, including main street retailers, regional/mid-sized retailers, and retailers with a national presence. Some of our members are retail pharmacies working to serve the health needs of Minnesotans across the state.

We appreciate Sen. Hoffman's bill making changes to Minnesota's definition of usual and customary and its potential to have a positive impact on consumer prescription drug costs. We believe the bill can be a tool when it comes to affordable access to medication for all Minnesotans.

In recent years, several pharmacies within the state have ceased offering consumer discount prescription programs due to our existing law requiring that those programs offering be considered the usual and customary prices. This unfortunate consequence has undoubtedly placed a burden on many individuals and families who relied on those discount programs to afford their prescription medications. By revising the definition of usual and customary we have an opportunity to positively impact costs and, in some cases, lower the overall cost of prescriptions.

Access to affordable prescription drugs is not just a matter of economic concern but also an important public health strategy. Thank you for considering the change offered in Sen. Hoffman's bill as we all look for ways to have a positive impact on the financial wellbeing and health of Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Nustad".

Bruce Nustad  
president