



Sen. Alice Mann  
3225 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Human Services Chair, Sen. John Hoffman  
2111 Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 26, 2023

Dear Sen. Mann and Sen. Hoffman

The Coalition of Recovery Investment (CORI) and our member organizations are supportive of SF3973 which would require sober homes to have opioid antagonists in a conspicuous location and also prohibits the denial of medication assisted treatment medications such as methadone and buprenorphine for opioid use disorder.

First, there is a need for accountability regarding the operation of sober homes as there has been a stream of bad actors that negatively impact the very residents they are supposed to help in their recovery journey. Regulation is essential to hold sober homes accountable for their actions, ensuring that they uphold ethical standards, provide quality care, and prioritize the recovery and safety of their residents.

Denying access to medications for individuals suffering from substance use disorder is a violation of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and has been going on for far too long. Medications Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the gold standard among evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder and has been extensively studied and proven to be highly effective in reducing illicit opioid use, overdose deaths, criminal activity, and other negative outcomes associated with opioid addiction.

Medications such as methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, also help to alleviate cravings and withdrawal symptoms, which are major barriers to recovery and MAT provides a long-term treatment approach, allowing individuals to stabilize their lives and engage in other aspects of treatment, such as counseling and behavioral therapies, necessary for sustained recovery. Lastly, MAT has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of overdose deaths compared to untreated opioid use disorder.

We thank Sen. Mann for authoring this important legislation and Sen. Hoffman for hearing the bill. If CORI can be of help or if you have questions, please reach out to CORI's contract lobbyist, Sarah Erickson, at [sarah.erickson@unitedstrategiesllc.com](mailto:sarah.erickson@unitedstrategiesllc.com).

Sincerely,

Bill Messinger  
Chair  
Coalition of Recovery Investment