



February 23, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Human Services Committee:

On behalf of NAMI Minnesota, I am writing to support SF 3973. This is a good policy bill and will help people living with a substance use disorder and mental illness.

SF 3973 first makes it clear that opiate antagonists should be readily available. If they are hidden in a cabinet or a back room that will not be useful. They need to be in a conspicuous location so they can be used to save lives.

The second section of the bill will require sober homes to allow people to take their legally prescribed medications. It is critical for people with substance use disorders and mental illnesses to take the medication(s) to treat their illness.

Sober homes need to acknowledge the fact that roughly 50% of people with substance use disorders also live with a mental illness. They need access to their medications in a sober home.

Please support SF 3973.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Abderholden".

Sue Abderholden, MPH
Executive Director



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