



March 1, 2023

Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee
2111 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Support SF4104 - Modifying Take Home Dosing Requirements for Opioid Treatment Programs

Dear Chair Hoffman;

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota Harm Reduction Collaborative to express our strong support for HF4014 and SF4104.

As the founder and owner of a harm reduction intensive outpatient treatment program at Roots Wellness Center, I witness firsthand the challenges faced by our clients in accessing housing due to discrimination within the sober housing industry. Rather than focusing on their healing journey, individuals struggling with substance use disorders are forced to prioritize basic needs like shelter, delaying their path to recovery.

Studies have shown that agonist treatments like methadone and buprenorphine are highly effective in reducing opioid use and improving patient retention in treatment programs. Furthermore, individuals engaged in long-term treatment with agonist medications are significantly less likely to experience fatal outcomes compared to untreated individuals. Implementing supportive measures like take-home dosing can significantly enhance the accessibility and effectiveness of these treatments.

Despite the proven benefits of agonist treatments, access to methadone treatment remains limited in Minnesota, primarily due to geographic disparities and restrictive attendance requirements. These barriers hinder individuals with opioid use disorder from receiving the comprehensive care and support necessary for successful recovery.

Recent federal initiatives, such as expanding take-home dosing options, have demonstrated promising progress in addressing these barriers and improving access to methadone treatment.

Aligning Minnesota's regulations with federal guidelines is crucial to ensuring that individuals with opioid use disorder have equitable access to life-saving treatment options.

We urge you to consider the importance of supporting HF4014 and SF4104 in advancing the accessibility and effectiveness of opioid treatment programs in Minnesota. By advocating for these measures, we can ensure that our state remains at the forefront of evidence-based practices in addiction treatment, ultimately improving outcomes and saving lives.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. If you require further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to your support and to witnessing positive progress in this vital area.

Thank you,

Katy Armendariz, MSW, LICSW
Roots Wellness Center
Formerly known as Minnesota CarePartner/Roots Recovery
Founder, President