



1401 8th Street South Suite 3, Moorhead, MN 56560
Phone: 218-284-1800
Fax: 218-600-5484
lotus.center.inc@gmail.com

3/1/2024

Subject: Support for HF4014 and SF4104 - Modifying Take-Home Dosing Requirements for Opioid Treatment Programs

Dear Chair Hoffman and Chair Fischer;

I hope this message finds you well. We are writing to express our support for two legislative proposals, HF4014 and SF4104, which seek to modify take-home dosing requirements for Opioid Treatment Programs in Minnesota to align with federal government standards.

As you may know, there is a significant body of evidence supporting the use of agonist medications for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Treatment with effective agonist medications has been shown to be the safest and most productive option for individuals with OUD and has been associated with a significant reduction in mortality rates among people with OUD.

Unfortunately, access to methadone treatment in Minnesota remains challenging due to geographic distribution and the restrictive nature of required attendance schedules. This limits the ability of individuals with OUD to receive the necessary care and support they need to achieve successful recovery.

However, recent federal initiatives have shown promising progress in advancing access to methadone treatment. These initiatives include allowing opioid users to access medications through pharmacies and expanding take-home dosing protections. By aligning Minnesota's laws with federal guidelines, we can equip practitioners with the readiness to adapt and change as federal laws advance.

We understand that methadone is a federally mandated substance, making state-level reforms challenging. However, I believe that by supporting HF4014 and SF4104, we can ensure that Minnesota stays current with federal regulations while improving access to life-saving treatment for individuals with OUD.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter. I trust you will carefully consider the importance of supporting these legislative proposals. Together, we can make a profound difference in the lives of individuals affected by OUD and create a healthier, more supportive state for all. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or if there is any way I can assist in advancing this cause. I look forward to seeing positive progress in this area.

Best regards, Sincerely,

Sarah Opitz

Sarah Opitz, BA, LSW, LADC

Founder & CEO of The Lotus Center, INC. & Recovery Engaged Communities

This information has been disclosed to you from records protected by Federal confidentiality rules (42 CFR Part 2). The Federal rules prohibit you from making any further disclosure of this information unless further disclosure is expressly permitted by the written consent of the person to whom it pertains or as otherwise permitted by 42 CFR Part 2. A general authorization for the release of medical or other information is NOT sufficient for this purpose. The Federal rules restrict any use of the information to criminally investigate or prosecute any alcohol or drug abuse patient.