

Minnesota Chapter

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American Academy of Pediatrics

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Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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March 10, 2025

Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Minnesota State Capitol, Room G-15
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard.
St Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee,

On behalf of the over 1,000 members of the Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, I am writing in strong support of SF1806.

Insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) can currently change drug coverage at any point in the insurance contract year. This can lead to delays in care, unexpected and increased expenses, and overall worse health outcomes for patients. These mid-year formulary changes must be prohibited.

While formularies and preferred drug lists can have a role in reducing costs, this must be balanced with patient's access to care. Families will often choose their health insurance plan based on whether the plan covers needed medications. SF1806 is a balanced approach because it only applies to a patient who is currently receiving a drug therapy. This is not a standard "frozen formulary" proposal as seen in some other states. Nothing in the bill would prohibit PBMs and insurers from changing formularies for all other enrollees.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important piece of legislation. SF1806 will help our patients – Minnesota's children – receive the care they need. I strongly urge your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Katie Smentek".

Katie Smentek, MD
President, Minnesota Chapter American Academy of Pediatrics