



AARP Testimony on SF 1806
Senate Health and Human Services
March 25, 2025

Chair Wiklund and Committee Members,

AARP supports consumer protections, such as those included in SF 1806, that limit mid-year changes to drug formularies that are not clinically appropriate. Prohibiting mid-year formulary changes provides a measure of fairness to consumers who often choose a health plan based on its coverage of services and medications that best suit their medical needs. Since most consumers can only switch health plans during their annual open enrollment period, mid-year formulary changes can trap consumers in a plan that, while suitable at the beginning of the year, is no longer a good fit for their health needs.

Mid-year formulary changes can force consumers to choose between paying more out-of-pocket or switching to a different, possibly less-effective drug to reduce the strain on their finances. Such choices can lead to adverse health outcomes, including less effective treatment and negative side effects. If enacted, this bill would protect consumers from sudden increases in their out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs or the loss of access to a needed drug entirely. It would ensure that prescription drug formularies maintain greater continuity over the course of a health benefit plan year, providing fairness and increased certainty to consumers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important, bipartisan legislation on behalf of our more than 620,000 members across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support of SF 1806.

Thomas Elness
State Advocacy Director
AARP Minnesota