

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF



HENNEPIN COUNTY, MN

March 26, 2025

Senator Zaynab Mohamed
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2103

Senator Mohamed,

I am writing to express strong support for SF 2499, which facilitates the sharing of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data with the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP). This legislation is critical to enhancing the accuracy, fidelity, and timeliness of overdose data, ultimately strengthening our ability to respond effectively to the ongoing opioid crisis.

In Hennepin County, we've lost nearly 1 person per day to an opioid overdose since 2021. For every life we lose, multiple are saved by naloxone administration by community members, law enforcement, and public health professionals. Under my leadership, our office's efforts across several divisions have turned to addressing the opioid crisis via education, prevention, overdose reversal, and enforcement.

ODMAP serves as an essential tool for tracking overdose incidents and informing rapid response efforts. However, the system is currently incomplete, as not all law enforcement agencies enter data because of administrative and data entry burdens. Additionally, much of the ODMAP data is based on information gleaned from 911 dispatch records rather than medical sources, which can lead to inconsistencies, gaps, and potentially misleading reporting. These limitations hinder the ability of public safety and public health professionals to assess overdose trends with precision and allocate resources where they are most needed.

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Allowing EMS data to be directly integrated into ODMAP would address these challenges by providing real-time, medically informed incident information, including:

- **Naloxone administration** – Understanding when and how naloxone is used can help track the severity of overdose events and gauge the need for additional harm reduction resources.
- **Suspected substance involvement** – Identifying new emerging drug threats would enable a more proactive response.
- **Routes of ingestion** – Recognizing shifts in substance use patterns can inform both enforcement and harm reduction strategies.

By integrating EMS data into ODMAP, we can improve the efficiency and coordination of law enforcement, EMS, and public health efforts, leading to more lives saved and better-informed policy decisions at the local and state levels.

Thank you for your commitment to opioid overdose prevention and better collaboration between law enforcement, community members, and public health officials.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Dawanna Witt
Hennepin County Sheriff

Cc: Chair Melissa H. Wiklund

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