PATIENT MIND INC.

Reinventing how patients and clinicians absorb new science

March 3, 2026

Members of the Senate Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee
Chairman Matt D. Klein
G-15 Capitol
St. Paul, MN. 55155

Subject: Minnesota SF 1946

Dear Chairman Matt Klein and Members of the Senate Commerce & Consumer Protection Committee:

On behalf of our nonprofit organization, Patient Mind, Inc., dedicated to advancing equitable, evidence-based care for people living with pain and mental health conditions, we write you in strong support of SF1946. Chronic pain and mental health conditions are deeply interconnected. When patients lack access to comprehensive pain care, they face increased risks of depression, anxiety, disability, and opioid dependence. True pain parity requires that health plans cover the full spectrum of clinically appropriate treatments—not just opioid medications.

This bill takes critical steps to ensure balanced, patient-centered care by:

- Requiring health plans to cover nonopioid prescription medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration that are not Schedule I–III controlled substances.
- Mandating coverage of at least three nonpharmacologic, nonoperative treatment modalities for pain management.
- Prohibiting preferential coverage of opioids over safer alternatives.
- Preventing more restrictive utilization controls on nonopioid therapies than those applied to opioids.
- Requiring annual education for providers and enrollees about available pain treatment options.

By removing structural barriers and ensuring coverage for nonopioid and nonpharmacologic therapies, this legislation promotes safer prescribing, reduces reliance on opioids, and supports whole-person care. It aligns insurance policy with modern clinical standards and helps address both the opioid crisis and the mental health challenges that often accompany untreated or undertreated pain. We urge you to advance this bill and affirm Minnesota's commitment to equitable, evidence-based pain care. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sapp, CEO, Patient Mind, Inc.