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

March 3, 2026

Re: Letter of Support for SF 1946

Dear Chairman Klein and Honorable Members,
On behalf of Young People in Recovery (YPR) and our two Minneapolis-based chapters, I'm writing to express our organization's strong support for SF 1946, which would expand non-opioid choices to the people of Minnesota by requiring health plans to provide coverage for nonopioid and nonpharmacologic pain management. Opioids should be the last resort for pain management, not the first! Wherever we can, we should protect young people—and all people—from unnecessary exposure to opioid medication when non-addictive and equally effective alternatives are available.

YPR, the young people, and the families we serve in Minnesota and nationwide believe that non-opioid pain management should not be disadvantaged by insurance policies that require additional barriers, prior authorizations, or step therapy requirements that are not applied to opioid medications. By aligning Minnesota's policy with protections adopted in other states, this legislation helps create a consistent and equitable standard for patient access to safer pain management options.

YPR is a national, peer-led organization serving young people in recovery from substance use disorder. Every day, we work with individuals and families whose lives have been affected by opioid addiction. Prevention remains one of the most effective strategies for addressing the opioid crisis. Ensuring that patients have timely, affordable access to clinically appropriate non-opioid pain treatments—without unnecessary administrative or financial barriers—is a practical and evidence-informed step toward reducing unnecessary opioid exposure.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. Young People in Recovery stands ready to support efforts that advance recovery, prevention, and healthier communities across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Ann Herbst
Executive Director

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