

March 8, 2022

Representative Robert Bierman
Minnesota House of Representatives

RE: March 9th, 2022 Health and Finance Policy Committee Hearing
Support of HF3786 Bill to amend Minn. 152.125 Intractable Pain

Dear Representative Bierman,

I first wanted to thank you, as a constituent, for authoring HF3786 and recognizing the dire need for this legislation in Minnesota.

Much appreciation also to Representative Baker, Representative Hollins, Representative Vang and Representative Munson, the co-authors of HF3786.

Your dedication to this healthcare issue is greatly appreciated by not only me, but by tens of thousands of Minnesotan's and their families who have been negatively impacted by unintended consequences stemming from the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, 2018 Minnesota Opioid Prescribing Guidelines and Minnesota Opioid Prescribing Improvement Program policies; which none acknowledged intractable pain, nor the existing Minn. 152.125 Intractable Pain Statute.

This bill would not only ensure individualized, patient centered care, but also restore the physician and patient relationships and protect the providers who do prescribe medically necessary opioid analgesics to treat intractable pain patients, while they also are following all federal and state laws, DEA regulations for holding a license to prescribe, and putting safeguards in place with monitoring patients for any signs of diversion, misuse or abuse. In addition, having a patient/provider agreement which outlines expectations, monitoring and documenting disclosure of possible risks associated with opioid analgesics is vital.

As you are aware, I have been negatively impacted by unbalanced policies, misapplied guidelines, lack of acknowledgment of intractable pain, rare diseases and people with disabilities associated with severe pain, in addition to overreach by insurance company and pharmacy benefit manager; who has tried on numerous occasions to unilaterally change my specialists valid prescription sent to pharmacy for my opioid analgesics to treat my intractable pain. Their actions caused a lapse in me receiving medications which caused me harm.

As a Palliative Care patient, I am exempt from guideline MME thresholds, per the language in the guideline, but in Minnesota, there is so much pressure to taper patients, which causes fear within the medical community; I was still tapered and am concerned if this bill doesn't pass, it will only get worse for me and everyone else in Minnesota like me and worse off than me.

As an advocate in addition to an intractable pain patient, I and others set out to gain support for this bill in the form of a petition.

Attached you will find the responses in an Excel spreadsheet in addition to a PDF document.

In the Excel spreadsheet you will find a breakdown of supporters of bill, how many agreed to testify if given the opportunity in addition to comments made on why signors support the bill.

On behalf of all signors, all Minnesotan's who have been negatively impacted, their families, and all the providers who are fearful to treat intractable pain patients due to pressure to taper patients to meet a recommended MME threshold in guidelines and policies which don't even reference intractable pain; we ask this letter and documentation of support be provided to the House Health Finance and Policy Committee for the upcoming hearing on March 9th.

We all understand the importance of responsible prescribing of opioid analgesics. We all agree that all risks associated with these medications must be explained and understood by patients, prior to taking medications, if deemed medically necessary; in addition to being documented in a patient's medical record. It's imperative for both patient and prescriber.

We're seeking more balance in Minnesota which is based on individualized care regardless of disease or diagnosis. One size fits all will not work for any healthcare issue.

Thank you for your support.

If you have any questions on the documentation being provided, please feel free to contact me by phone or email.

Sincerely,

Cammie LaValle
Patient/Advocate
Lakeville, MN

Letter submitted on behalf of all signors listed in documentation provided

