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February 28, 2018

SENT VIA E-MAIL

The Honorable Joe Schomacker, Chairman
House Health and Human Services Reform Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: **Letter of Support for HF 3019**

Dear Chairman Schomacker:

I write to you today on behalf of Express Scripts, a leading pharmacy benefit management ("PBM") company providing prescription benefits to tens of millions of people across the United States. Express Scripts aligns with plan sponsors, taking bold action and delivering patient-centered care to make better health more affordable and accessible. Currently, we have two facilities in Minnesota employing a total of over 800 people.

Express Scripts supports Representative Franke's House File 3019. We share the goal of the legislation to combat the opioid epidemic that is ravaging our state and nation by placing a limit on the quantity of opioids prescribed for acute pain. Express Scripts has been at the forefront of this issue as well. After a one-year pilot with 100,000 members, last September Express Scripts implemented an opioid solution which included limiting the days' supply of opioids for new patients. This new program is driving change in the opioid crisis by addressing the full continuum of patient care and influencing behavior at every touchpoint. After just a few months of operation, our clients have experienced: a 59.5% reduction in the average days' supply per claim for first time opioid users; 96% of opioid prescriptions for new patients are for a 7 day or less supply; and 87% of initial prescriptions for long-acting opioids were instead filled with short-acting opioids first.

Through our solution we address potential behavior and safety gaps at all aspects of the care continuum: at the doctor's office, ensuring the safe prescribing of opioids; at the pharmacy, ensuring responsible dispensing; and with the patient, ensuring they fully understand the safety concerns and risks associated with opioid medication use. This program decreases pharmacy, medical, and treatment costs, while simultaneously improving patient care.

Chairman Joe Schomacker
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Express Scripts supports House File 3019, and stands ready to assist the state in their work on the opioid issue. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle D. Mack". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michelle D. Mack
Director, State Government Affairs

Cc: Members, House Health and Human Services Reform Committee