



The Kid Experts™

March 28, 2023
House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Stephenson and Committee Members,

On behalf of Children's Minnesota, I am writing to offer comments on HF2680, the House Commerce Omnibus Bill. Children's Minnesota is the state's largest pediatric health care system, serving patients from all 87 counties and 60 percent of counties in surrounding states. Nearly half of our patients are insured through Medicaid. This Legislative Session we have expressed support for policies that recognize the critical need for children and families to have access to safe, affordable health care, including a continuum of mental health services equipped to address the current mental health crisis.

HF2680 includes important provisions that would benefit the patients and families we serve :

- Requiring commercial health plan coverage of treatment at psychiatric residential treatment facilities
- Limiting copays for prescription drugs and related medical supplies to treat chronic diseases such as asthma and diabetes.

We continue to have significant concerns with the language included in Article 2, Sec. 55 as it does not prohibit health insurers and pharmacy benefit managers from requiring white bagging. White bagging is a practice that continues to negatively impact our patients who rely on medication infusions. It frequently limits our patients' ability to safely access these medications as stand-alone infusion centers are often not equipped to serve young pediatric patients and as a result, often turn kids away. Once turned away, our staff and these families face additional barriers to ensuring that the patient can safely access their medication in our clinic and still have it covered by their insurance.

At Children's Minnesota, our vision is to be every family's essential partner in raising healthier children. As the kid experts in our community, it is our goal to improve the health and wellbeing of kids in our state. We appreciate your continued partnership as we work to collectively make sure children and families can access the care they need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda Jansen". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Amanda Jansen, MPP
Director of Public Policy
Children's Minnesota