



February 16, 2021

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Stephenson, Chair
Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Stephenson and Members of the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee:

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. As leaders in labor and health care, we are a voice for nurses around the state on issues related to the health and well-being of the public.

At MNA, our mission is to advocate for quality care that is accessible and affordable to Minnesotans. We believe health care is a human right and that it is the foundation for a healthy and prosperous state. It's why caring for patients extends beyond the bedside for MNA nurses.

That's why we support HF 801 and ask you to join nurses from across the state in supporting this legislation that will establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board and a Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council.

The goal of the Board and Advisory Council is to help protect consumers and other health care system stakeholders from unaffordable costs of certain prescription drugs by setting statewide upper payment limits for certain high-cost drugs. We know this kind of legislation can have an impact on the cost of high-cost drugs because this Board is one of the top recommendations of both the Minnesota Attorney General's bipartisan Prescription Drug Task Force and the Blue Ribbon Commission.

In hospitals all over the state, nurses see the devastating consequences of expensive prescriptions that are out of reach for too many. These are often patients who end up in the emergency room for rationing their necessary medication or who are forced to settle, not for the best drug to treat their condition, but the one covered in their benefit set. Minnesotans are being forced to make painful decisions between paying for prescriptions and keeping the lights on at home.

The unaffordable cost of many prescription drugs not only jeopardizes the immediate health of Minnesotans, but it also further the disparities that exist in our healthcare system. Your paycheck should not determine your access to basic and essential care.

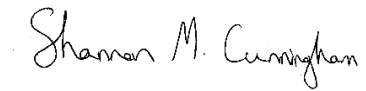
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AFL-CIO

Vote yes on HF 801.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shannon M. Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shannon M. Cunningham
Direction of Community and Government Relations
Minnesota Nurses Association

