



Minnesota Freedom Fund Action

P.O. Box 6077

Minneapolis, MN 55406

action@mnfund.org

Co- Chair Paul Novotny
Pub. Safety Fin. & Policy Committee Minnesota House of
Representatives

CO-Chair Kelly Moller
Pub. Safety Fin. & Policy Committee Minnesota House of
Representatives

Re: HF 4282 (Witte) Persons detained in jails provided medications

Dear Chair Paul Novonty, Chair Kelly Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Finance & Policy Committee,

On behalf of Minnesota Freedom Fund Action, we write to express our opposition to HF 4282.

Minnesota Freedom Fund Action supported the passage of the Larry R. Hill Medical Reform Act because it established important protections to ensure that people do not lose access to essential medications simply because they are detained.

HF 4282 raises serious concerns because it removes key safeguards that help ensure continuity of care and informed medical decision making in correctional settings.

Under current law, licensed health care professionals are required to consult with the original prescriber before determining that a medication is not medically appropriate or before changing a person's prescribed treatment. This consultation is an important safeguard that helps ensure that medical decisions are made with a full understanding of a person's treatment history, diagnosis, and clinical needs.

HF 4282 removes that requirement. Without consultation with the prescribing provider, there is a greater risk that medications could be discontinued or altered without sufficient knowledge of the patient's care plan. This is particularly concerning in detention settings, where people may already be experiencing significant medical or mental health vulnerabilities.

The bill also weakens provisions intended to ensure that individuals are informed participants in decisions about their care. In custody settings where individuals may be experiencing crisis, withdrawal, or extreme stress, clear communication and documentation of care decisions are critical to protecting patient wellbeing and ensuring accountability.

People in jail deserve safe, consistent, and informed medical care. Policies governing health care in detention should strengthen safeguards that protect continuity of treatment and patient awareness of care decisions, not weaken them..

For these reasons, Minnesota Freedom Fund respectfully urges the committee to oppose HF 4282.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle Matthias

Danielle Matthias, Director of Policy & Advocacy , Minnesota Freedom Fund