



March 13, 2023

The Honorable Tina Liebling and Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee

RE: HF 2077, Covering seizure detection devices under Medical Assistance

Dear Chair Liebling and Members of the Committee,

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) serves people with epilepsy and seizures across Minnesota. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that is defined as having more than one unprovoked seizures. One in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime, and 1 in 10 will have a seizure in their lifetime. We are writing today to express our support for HF 2077, which covers seizure detection devices under Medical Assistance (Minnesota Medicaid).

The highest risk of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP) is individuals who have convulsive seizures while unattended at night. Seizure detection devices can reduce the risk of death, and increase quality of life for people living with epilepsy by alerting caregivers when a seizure is occurring, so they can provide immediate first aid to the seizure. Scientific evidence strongly supports that first aid during or shortly after convulsive seizures can be lifesaving. Seizure Detection Devices ensure people with epilepsy are able to receive that attention as soon as possible.

Covering these devices under Medical Assistance will ensure that there are not financial barriers to accessing these potentially lifesaving devices for individuals living with epilepsy. According to the National Epilepsy Foundation, nationally about 50% of adults with active epilepsy have annual family income average of less than \$25,000; and about 33% of people with epilepsy are covered under Medicaid.

Please support HF 2077, which covers seizure detection devices under medical assistance. Thank you for your time, and support of the epilepsy community. If you have any questions, please contact EFMN's Policy Manager, Sara Goodno at sgoodno@efmn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glen Lloyd".

Glen Lloyd
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota