

**Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,**

**The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota is an organization devoted to preserving the rights and liberties enshrined in our constitution and laws.**

We are writing in opposition to HF 4282 DE1.

The Larry R. Hill Medical Reform Act passed last year requires that jails provide inmates with the same medications they were using when they began their sentence. We view this as a humane and reasonable measure that would protect people's constitutional rights.

People in jail and prison have long been denied access to adequate medical care—often leading to unnecessary suffering. The Supreme Court ruled in *Estelle v. Gamble* that ignoring serious medical needs can even amount to cruel and unusual punishment violating the Eighth Amendment. The Larry R. Hill Medical Reform Act was an important step in addressing the harm to people who were denied medications while incarcerated.

**The D.E. Amendment** unfortunately does not improve the bill or address the concerns we raised at the previous hearing. Some issues include:

- the DE1 still requires correctional facilities to verify medication as current and valid
  - This undermines current law, could potentially slow down a detainee's access to needed medication, and does not specify criteria that would disqualify someone from getting their medication
- The language used in Subd 4f (a) – “a reasonable attempt” – is broad and unhelpful. It leaves a lot of wiggle room and does not guarantee that the medication needed will be provided. What if the reliable sources listed have conflicting views?

The consequences of unadministered, delayed, or incorrect medical care can lead to bodily harm or even death. It's vital that Minnesota continues to uphold prisoners' rights to adequate medical care; especially if the goal is to produce rehabilitated individuals who will eventually rejoin our communities.

We urge the committee to oppose HF 4282 DE1.

**Thank You,**

**ACLU-MN**