



March 11, 2026

Co-Chair Representative Heintzeman
Co-Chair Representative Fischer
House Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee, Minnesota House of Representatives

Re: HF 4017 (Johnson) – Infectious Waste Regulation

Dear Co-Chairs Heintzeman and Fischer, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (MNASCA), which represents a statewide network of ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) dedicated to delivering high-quality, cost-effective outpatient surgical care, I write to express significant concern to HF 4017 (Johnson), which proposes additional notice requirements, inspections, and financial penalties related to infectious medical waste.

Ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs) operate under rigorous infection control and medical waste management requirements overseen by the Minnesota Department of Health, federal OSHA standards, accreditation organizations, and licensed waste transport vendors. While MNASCA supports policies that ensure the safe handling and disposal of infectious waste, we are concerned that the provisions in HF 4017 may introduce additional regulatory layers that duplicate existing oversight rather than work cohesively with it.

Our members are particularly concerned about the administrative burden associated with new reporting, inspection, and compliance requirements, especially when healthcare providers are already operating within established regulatory frameworks. Minnesota's health care providers are navigating an increasingly difficult landscape marked by staffing shortages, provider burnout, and persistent financial pressures. Adding another layer of complex, resource-intensive compliance requirements risks diverting critical attention and resources away from patient care.

The bill also raises concerns regarding disproportionate financial liability, particularly when infectious waste handling involves third-party transport and disposal vendors. Facilities could face significant penalties for circumstances outside their direct control once waste leaves the premises.

Several MNASCA members have already taken proactive steps to strengthen waste segregation and disposal processes following local guidance. While these adjustments have been manageable, they have resulted in increased operational costs. Additional statutory requirements could further increase costs for ASCs without clear evidence of improved outcomes.

MNASCA supports responsible infectious waste management and appreciates the Legislature's interest in ensuring safe practices. However, we encourage the Committee to carefully consider whether HF 4017 aligns with existing regulatory frameworks and avoids creating unnecessary administrative burden, additional costs, and unintended liability for compliant healthcare providers.

Thank you for the opportunity to share MNASCA's perspective.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Melissa Jones'.

Melissa Jones
MNASCA Chair of the Board