

Palliative Care: Improving Quality of Life for Minnesota Patients and Families

Support HF1940 (Bierman) | SF2145 (Hoffman)

What is palliative care?

Palliative care is team-based medical care to manage pain, stress, and symptoms for people with serious or life-limiting illnesses, supporting caregivers in the process. Palliative care leads to increased patient and family satisfaction, fewer unnecessary tests and procedures, reduced time spent in intensive care units, and lower readmission rates. It helps at any age and any stage of care, and improves patients' and families' quality of life by:

**Helping patients
live longer**



**Making life better for
patients & families**



Lowering costs



What does this legislation do?

- Eliminates the sunset date of the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council.
- Fully supports the Council's work through the Department of Health (\$44,000 per year).
- Launches a one-time DHS study on the fiscal, medical, and social impacts of creating a palliative care benefit for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees (\$150,000).

Why do we need this legislation?

As medical science advances and the people of our state grow older, more people live longer with serious illnesses. The Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council exists to advise lawmakers on ways to improve access to palliative care. Unfortunately, the Council's effectiveness has been hindered by a lack of state funding and it is set to expire in 2025. The Council's initial recommendations still need to be realized, and more work lies ahead - especially in improving access to palliative care in community settings outside hospitals. Simply put, chronically and seriously ill Minnesotans need this legislation to keep progress moving forward on palliative care in Minnesota.

Endorsing Partners:

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
Advocates for Better Health
The Aliveness Project
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association
American Indian Cancer Foundation
The Arc Minnesota
Children's Minnesota
The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
Health Care Agent Literacy Project
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Mama Shu
Mayo Clinic

MetroMN Oncology Nursing Society
Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging
Minnesota Medical Association
Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care
Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Rural Health Association
National MS Society
Rainbow Health

For more information:
Dana Bacon, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
dana.bacon@lls.org or 612.308.0479