



March 8, 2021

The Honorable Tina Liebling
Chair, Health Finance and Policy Committee
477 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling,

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) serves people with epilepsy and seizures across Minnesota. Our programs educate, connect, and empower individuals and families throughout their epilepsy journey. We are writing today to express our support for the Drug Formulary Committee Reform proposal in HF 1904.

For the majority of people living with epilepsy, anti-seizure medications (also known as anticonvulsants) are the most common and cost-effective treatment for controlling and/or reducing seizures. The Drug Formulary Committee's work plays a crucial role in determining the availability and accessibility of medications that can save the lives of the people we serve.

We believe there is an opportunity to improve the transparency of the committee's work and increase the ability for the public to participate.. The requirement in this bill for the commissioner to review membership and policies and to propose a reorganization is a step in the right direction. We know that community input can provide critical insight and ensuring transparency throughout the process will better serve this goal.

We urge you and your members to support HF 1904 to reform the Drug Formulary Committee to more effectively ensure public input and transparency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Besonen". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Heather Besonen
Associate Executive Director, Mission & Strategy
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota