

Ending the **HIV** Epidemic

Harm Reduction Funding HF4398 (Liebling) / SF4014 (Wiklund)

Supporting HF4398 increases funding for harm reduction services that have been proven to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases. These services are especially critical for Minnesotans disproportionately at higher risk for HIV, including people experiencing homelessness. The bill authorizes the health commissioner to award grants for harm reduction services like syringe access while increasing linkage rates for people diagnosed with HIV and other infectious diseases. Harm reduction services are a key component of reducing new HIV infections and ending HIV in Minnesota.

What are Harm Reduction Services?

- Distributing sterile syringes and other injection equipment, opioid overdose medication (such as naloxone), and fentanyl test strips
- Medical care for wounds, counseling, overdose education, and referral to treatment

Why is it needed?

- MDH has declared Minnesota's first ever HIV outbreaks in the Twin Cities and Duluth, which has been largely caused by intravenous drug use
- Providing access to sterile syringes and opioid overdose medication saves lives by preventing new HIV infections and reversing overdoses, which have doubled since 2015.
- Increases access to health services for underserved populations, especially people experiencing homelessness
- Critical to meeting our END HIV MN goal of reducing new HIV infections by 75% by the year 2035
- Helps keep HIV negative people maintain a negative status

What does the bill do?

- Authorize funding for syringe services programs for expanding access to harm reduction services and improving linkages to care to prevent HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases for those experiencing homelessness or housing instability.

