



March 29, 2023

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

Re: Support for specific provisions in HF 2930 DE1 amendment

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DE amendment for HF 2930, which will constitute the committee's omnibus bill for the session.

LLS encourages the committee to support the following patient-friendly provisions in the bill as amended:

1. Drug Formulary Committee composition reform (Article 1, Section 11)
Bringing more patient voices to the table and improving public transparency in the Drug Formulary Committee's work will help the Committee make decisions that better meet the needs of the patients it serves.
2. Continuous eligibility for Medical Assistance (MA) child enrollees (Article 2, Section 12)
Coverage gaps are potentially disastrous at any age. These changes will promote coverage stability for children, financial stability for families, and greater health equity for underserved communities.
3. Elimination of MA cost-sharing and deductibles (Article 2, Section 14)
Especially for lower-income families, cost-sharing measures lead to diminished coverage, increased financial burdens, and poorer access to care. This proposed change in state law will help prevent these harmful outcomes that impact blood cancer patients and other Minnesotans.
4. MinnesotaCare coverage expansion (Article 2, Sections 22 to 29)
To access the care they need, cancer patients must have access to meaningful health insurance coverage. Their lives literally depend on it. Given the intent of this section of the amendment to establish new, competitive coverage options for Minnesota patients that offer comprehensive coverage with reasonable cost-sharing limits, comprehensive benefits packages, adequate provider networks, and vital consumer protections, LLS supports these sections of the bill.

5. All-payer claims data provisions (Article 3, Sections 31 to 33)
These provisions will deliver important transparency and more comprehensive data to inform the analysis of healthcare cost trends in Minnesota.
6. Health equity programs (Article 3, Sections 40 to 45, and Section 128)
Some groups—including but not limited to people of color, those with low incomes, people who identify as LGBTQIA and those who live in rural areas—face systemic social, economic and environmental disadvantages that can impact their care. The programs created in these bill sections will help Minnesota take overdue steps forward to address these disadvantages.
7. Coverage screening and billing protections for uninsured patients (Article 3, Sections 75 and 77)
Screening for presumptive eligibility for charity care or health insurance will provide essential protections to patients who may be uninsured yet eligible for coverage or cost-sharing supports. Similarly, billing protections will ensure that most uninsured Minnesotans are charged favorable prices for care. Both measures will reduce the risks and burdens of uninsurance.
8. Nonidentifying cancer data collection (Article 3, Section 86)
This provision will help Minnesota participate more fully in federal and state cancer data registries without compromising patient privacy, improving the quality of policy decision-making and public health analysis impacted by these registries. Minnesota is one of few states that are not fully compliant with these data coordination standards.
9. Palliative Care Advisory Council (Article 3, Sections 194 and 203, plus markup spreadsheet)
Palliative care help patients, caregivers, and families on multiple levels. Minnesota's Palliative Care Advisory Council strives to improve access and quality in this field and will benefit from restored staff funding and the elimination of its sunset date. LLS supports these measures and would encourage your committee to revisit its support for the DHS study proposed in HF 1940.

LLS hopes your committee will support the policies outlined in our letter and welcomes the opportunity to answer any questions you might have. Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



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