



March 18, 2022

To: Members of the Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy Committee
RE: HF 3958 (Morrison)

Dear Chair Liebling and Committee Members,

This is Medicaid (TIM) is a diverse, nonpartisan coalition of over 50 advocacy, direct service, and faith-based organizations that partner to protect and improve Medicaid. We are writing today to express our support for HF 3958, which will cover seizure detection devices under Medical Assistance (Minnesota Medicaid).

1 in 1000 people living with epilepsy will die each year of Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP). The highest risk of SUDEP occurs in individuals who have convulsive seizures while unattended at night. Scientific evidence strongly supports that first aid during or shortly after convulsive seizures can be lifesaving. Seizure detection devices can detect convulsive seizures, and alert caregivers that a seizure is occurring, allowing caregivers to provide first aid. This can reduce the risk of SUDEP, and increase quality of life for people living with convulsive seizures.

While seizure detection devices are useful, potentially life-saving tools for people with convulsive seizures, these devices are not covered under Medicaid fee-for-service. These devices are covered under some commercial plans. This is Medicaid believes Minnesotans should be able to get the health care they need, where and when they need it. This is Medicaid supports covering seizure detection devices under Medical Assistance as a step towards equitable access to therapies.

This is Medicaid urges you to support HF 3958. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at thisismedicaid@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

This is Medicaid

This Is Medicaid is a diverse coalition of nonpartisan organizations from across Minnesota partnering to strengthen and protect Medicaid. Our member organizations advocate for or directly serve people who receive health care and supports through Medicaid, called Medical Assistance in Minnesota.

Find us at www.thisismedicaid.org and on Facebook and Twitter.