



The Office of
Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison
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March 5, 2021

Re: HF801

Dear Committee Members,

I write today in support of House File 801, a bill that establishes a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (hereinafter “Board”), consistent with recommendations of the Attorney General’s Task Force on Lowering Prescription Drug Prices. This bill is imperative to the ability of Minnesotans to be able to afford their lifesaving medications.

HF801 is an important step towards creating a process that ensures prescription drugs are priced affordably, and sets upper payment limits on drugs the Board determines to have an affordability challenge. Furthermore, HF801 directs the Board to refer matters to the Attorney General’s Office if an enforcement action may be warranted to ensure drug manufacturers follow the law.

To study the ongoing problem in the prescription drug market, I formed a bi-partisan, bi-cameral 15-member Task Force with the goal of identifying solutions that will help reign in the high cost of prescription drugs in Minnesota. The work of the Task Force culminated in an award-winning 94-page report and 14 recommendations that, if adopted and implemented, would help lower the cost of prescription drugs for all Minnesotans. One of those recommendations was to create a prescription drug cost review commission similar to that proposed in HF801.

Finally, HF 801 applies only to excessive drug prices imposed by manufacturers on prescription drugs sold, dispensed, or delivered to consumers within the state of Minnesota.

Please consider supporting this important legislation that helps Minnesotans afford their lives while being able to live with dignity and respect.

Sincerely,

KEITH ELLISON
Attorney General