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RE: Support for H.F. 1183

February 23, 2021

Mr. Chair and Committee Members:

TakeAction Minnesota is a grassroots organization representing 55,000 individual Minnesotans and 22 organizational members across the state organizing for justice and democracy. We are writing in support of H.F. 1183. Out of control prescription drug costs are a growing concern of TakeAction Minnesota members. Across the state, we hear worries and horror stories from our members:

- A brother-in-law who died rationing insulin at 48 years old because he started a new job and couldn't access health insurance until after a 6-month probationary period;
- A young person unable hold down steady work since they can't afford the prescriptions drugs they need to be healthy;
- A man on a fixed income paying \$250 per month for essential medicine that costs \$20 in other countries;
- A woman with a rare disease treated by Xyrem, a drug developed by publicly funded research and costs \$192,000 per year;
- A woman in 70s paying \$5,500 per year for prescription medicine;
- A graduate student whose life fell apart when they stopped taking their bipolar medication because they couldn't afford to pay \$700 per month.

In addition to our members' stories, a recent [survey](#) of Minnesotans found that 45% of respondents were worried about rising prescription drug costs and 21% had cut a pill or skipped a dose due to cost pressures (Health Care Value Hub, November 2020).¹ The survey also found that 88% of Minnesotans support the Legislature authorizing the Attorney General to take legal action to prevent price-gouging or unfair prescription drug price hikes.

This bill responds to the fact that the pharmaceutical supply chain is complex and convoluted. It's working for its many stakeholders, not patients. We need more than one policy to address out of control prescription drug costs, including legislation to authorize the power of our Attorney General's office to take appropriate legal action. Please vote yes on H.F. 1183.

Sincerely,

Kenza Hadj-Moussa
Public Affairs Director

¹ Minnesota Residents Worried about High Cost of Drugs—Support Range of Government Solutions, Altarum Health Care Value Hub Consumer Healthcare Experience State Survey, December 2020.