

January 30, 2023

The Honorable Tina Liebling

Chair, Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy

477 State Office Building

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Liebling,

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota (EFMN) serves people with epilepsy and seizures across Minnesota. Epilepsy is a neurological condition that is defined as having more than one unprovoked seizures. 1 in 26 people will develop epilepsy in their lifetime, and 1 in 10 will have a seizure in their lifetime.

Approximately one third of people with epilepsy use Medical Assistance for health coverage. It is incredibly important for people with epilepsy to have consistent access to their medications. Mid-year changes to the Medical Assistance drug formulary can create challenges for people with epilepsy in accessing their medication, potentially leading to breakthrough seizures. For those fortunate enough to gain seizure control through medication, a change in the prescription that has effectively controlled their seizures, can be physically, mentally and financially devastating.

EFMN supports the provisions in HF 294 that would prevent mid-year formulary changes, and we urge the committee to reject the A2 amendment that would reduce the protections for the state's most vulnerable people, those on Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP).

I appreciate your support for people with epilepsy.

Sincerely,

Glen Lloyd

Executive Director

Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota