



April 7, 2021

Representative Zack Stephenson  
Chair, House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee  
509 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Omnibus Commerce Finance and Policy Bill H.F. 1031

Chair Stephenson and Members of the House Commerce Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Medical Alley Association's more than 600 members, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to provide input on House File 1031. Medical Alley Association acknowledges the challenges you face while crafting this legislation and we appreciate the dedication and commitment it will take to come to an agreement. For your consideration, we would like to bring a few provisions to your attention that we have concerns with.

Creation of a Drug Affordability Board

The Medical Alley Association shares the goal of the bill author and committee members to lower the overall cost of healthcare, while increasing access and improving outcomes. We do not agree, however, that the approach taken by House File 1031, through establishing an unelected drug affordability board, will accomplish this goal. We are concerned with the fact that the bill would allow the newly established Prescription Drug Affordability Commission to unilaterally set the price for certain prescription drugs for all non-exempt public and private purchasers in the state. This bill could negatively impact the overall cost of care, by not only restricting access to drugs that can most effectively treat or cure conditions, but in providing a disincentive to continue significant expenditures for innovation and discovering new treatments.

Medical Alley Association supports policies that improve patients' outcomes while avoiding legislation that reduces biotechnology innovation ultimately impairing patients' access to life-saving drugs. The drug affordability board will set a concerning precedent for state intervention in the marketplace and inviting harmful, unintended consequences.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our input on this legislation. Please let me know if we can provide any additional information or be a resource for your committees.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lilly Melander'.

Lilly Melander  
State Policy & Advocacy Director  
Medical Alley Association