



March 15, 2023

RE: Written Testimony in Support of HF 96 Section 4, MinnesotaCare Inclusion

Dear Chair Liebling, and members of the Committee,

My name is Angela Bowles Edwards and I am a Regional Outreach Manager for the Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota, providing support, connection, and education to those impacted by epilepsy in the East Metro, as well as Spanish-speaking families across the state. I am writing to share the story of 10 year old Sofía and her family to illustrate why MinnesotaCare Inclusion, Section 4 of HF 96, is impactful for people with epilepsy. Sofía's name has been changed for anonymity,

Sofía has epilepsy and experiences full body convulsive seizures. In addition to daily medications and regular checkups, Sofía sometimes needs emergency care for her seizures. Standard medical advice is to call 911 if a seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes because long seizures increase the risk of permanent brain damage or death.

Because Sofía's family is still awaiting approval for an immigrant visa, she has no insurance. Under current law, her family does not qualify for MinnesotaCare or any other insurance options. While charity care covers some of her doctor's appointments and medications, her family has no coverage for ambulance rides or ER visits. To find out if Emergency Medical Assistance will pay the cost of an emergency room visit, you first have to *go*, only to find out later if the care you needed, and the precariousness of your health, was deemed eligible.

Sofía's mom shared that Sofía recently had a 30 minute seizure, during which she grappled with the uncertainty this lack of coverage brings. As the minutes ticked by, she feared both for Sofía's life and for her family's well-being when the ambulance bill arrived. She loves her daughter and she called 911, and the hospital was able to get Sofía's seizure under control. Now, when Sofía's mom needs to be focused on helping Sofía recover, she's facing the stress of an enormous medical bill she cannot pay.

The Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota supports section 4 of HF 96, which would allow families like Sofía's to access coverage for life-saving care under MinnesotaCare. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela M. Bowles Edwards".

Angela Bowles Edwards | [abedwards@efmn.org](mailto:abedwards@efmn.org)  
East Metro Regional Outreach Manager  
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota