

**Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,**

**The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota is an organization devoted to preserving the rights and liberties enshrined in our constitution and laws.**

We are writing in opposition to HF 4282.

The Larry R. Hill Medical Reform Act passed last year requires that jails provide inmates with the same medications they were using when they began their sentence. We view this as a humane and reasonable measure that would protect people's constitutional rights.

Lack of access to adequate medical care has been a longstanding issue that has led to unnecessary suffering and harm. The Supreme Court ruled in *Estelle v. Gamble* that ignoring serious medical needs can amount to cruel and unusual punishment violating the Eighth Amendment.

HF 4282 changes current law in ways that are unhelpful and unnecessary.

This bill undermines the Larry R. Hill Act by requiring facilities to establish a protocol to verify an inmate's existing prescription before issuing a replacement or refill prescription. It's unclear how this process would work to verify prescriptions and what criteria would disqualify someone from receiving a refill.

Similarly, it is a step backward to remove language about the requirement for jail health care professionals to consult with an inmate's personal health care provider before determining whether the inmate needs a prescription. This could lead to miscommunication and dangerous uninformed decisions.

The consequences of unadministered, delayed, or incorrect medical care can lead to bodily harm or even death. It's vital that Minnesota continues to uphold prisoners' rights to adequate medical care; especially if the goal is to produce rehabilitated individuals who will eventually rejoin our communities.

We urge the committee to oppose HF 4282.

**Thank You,**

**ACLU-MN**