

February 20th, 2023

RE: HF 1031 and SF 679

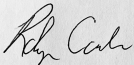
Dear Legislator,

I am reaching out in hopes that I can make a positive change for myself but also for fellow Minnesotans who are like me. I have been seen several times in the past few years by my local optometrist to not only monitor the overall health of my eyes but to be seen for a condition called Herpes Simplex. This disease has caused painful ulcerations on my eyes which can cause scarring that may end in permanent blindness. I am grateful that my optometrist has been available to treat my flare-ups in a timely manner since the longer it goes untreated, the higher chance of blindness I face.

However, I find it unfortunate that my optometrist is limited to only prescribing this medication for a 10-day course and is not able to prescribe me a longer course to help prevent a re-infection or flare-up from occurring. Optometrists in 47 other states have no limit on this medication; Minnesota is one of 3 states that has this unnecessary limitation on their Optometrists. Not only do I have to take additional time to see an Ophthalmologist for an extension in my prescription, but I also must pay additional money for a separate office visit. It is also frustrating because the Ophthalmology visit requires no other evaluation that my Optometrist is not already capable of doing.

Please support HF 1031/SF 679 and help improve eye care for all Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robyn Carlson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robyn" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Carlson".

Robyn Carlson

Lakeville, MN