



Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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January 21, 2021

The Honorable Michelle Benson
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and
Human Services Finance and Policy
95 University Avenue West
MN Senate Office Building, Room 3109
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tina Liebling
Chair, House Committee on Health Finance
and Policy
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
State Office Building, Room 477
St. Paul, MN 55155-1232

Re: Support for SF61 and HF19

Dear Chairpersons Benson and Liebling,

On behalf of the Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine (MNSAM), the medical specialty society representing physicians and clinicians in Minnesota who specialize in the prevention and treatment of addiction, we would like to take this opportunity to provide our support for SF61 and HF19, which would remove the “buy and bill” requirement from all practitioner administered medications for substance use disorders (SUD). With opioid-involved deaths increasing by as much as 55% in Minnesota in the first half of this year, likely due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is vital that Minnesotans have access to high-quality, evidence-based and comprehensive addiction treatment.

MNSAM is dedicated to increasing access to and improving the quality of addiction treatment for patients in Minnesota. To that end, we are committed to advocating for a state addiction treatment system that provides access to all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications to treat opioid addiction. SF61 and HF19 would alleviate a significant barrier to treatment by enabling physicians to treat their patients with medications for addiction treatment (MAT) that can be cost prohibitive under the current “buy and bill” requirement.

MNSAM shares the state of Minnesota’s goal of providing quality and evidence-based comprehensive addiction treatment services. We thank you for considering SF61 and HF19 and offer our support for its passage. Please do not hesitate to contact MNSAM’s president, Dr. JoAn Laes at (612) 873-3258 or joAn.laes@hcmed.org, if MNSAM can be of service to you. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

JoAn Laes, MD, FACMT, FASAM
President, Minnesota Society of Addiction Medicine