



March 2, 2021

Professional Distinction

Personal Dignity

Patient Advocacy

Representative Liebling, Chair
Health Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Chair Liebling and Members of the Health Finance and Policy Committee:

With 22,000 members, the Minnesota Nurses Association (MNA) is the largest voice for professional nursing in the State of Minnesota. As leaders in labor and health care, we are a voice for nurses around the state on issues related to the health and well-being of the public.

At MNA, our mission is to advocate for quality care that is accessible and affordable to Minnesotans. We believe health care is a human right and that it is the foundation for a healthy and prosperous state. It's why caring for patients extends beyond the bedside for MNA nurses.

Across the state, nurses see the devastating consequences of expensive prescriptions. They see patients who end up in the emergency room after rationing their medication. They counsel patients who make decisions about their treatment based on what is most cost-effective for them and their families, instead of what is best for treating their health. And they continually worry about patients who decide to "tough it out" or take risks with their health because they cannot afford the cost of the prescriptions.

MNA supports efforts like HF1183 to curb the increasing cost of prescription drugs. Our pharmaceutical system favors the players who make money, rather than the health of patients. Empowering the Attorney General to investigate drug manufacturers is a critical component of protecting Minnesotans from skyrocketing drug prices and ensuring that the health of the people is central to our health care system.

Exorbitant price increases not only jeopardize the immediate health of Minnesotans, but they also further serve to create winners and losers in our healthcare system. Your income should not determine your access to basic and essential medications that are the difference between whether you live or die.

Vote yes on HF 1183.

Thank you,

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