



February 23, 2026

Dear Members of the Health Policy and Finance Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Medical Association, I am writing in support of HF 3444 to prohibit prior authorization for medications used to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

Prior authorization frequently interferes with timely access to essential care for patients. According to the American Medical Association, 94% of physicians report that prior authorization delay access to necessary care. 82% report that delays from prior authorization have led to patients abandoning recommended treatments. Nearly one in four physicians report that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event for a patient, including hospitalization, permanent impairment, or even death.

Delays in care due to prior authorization for those with OUD can be especially dangerous. Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are clinically proven to reduce overdose deaths and improve recovery outcomes. These medications are the standard of care for OUD and are critical to addressing both the human and economic costs of the opioid epidemic. Delays in initiating or maintaining MOUD increase the risk of relapse, overdose, and death. Administrative barriers such as prior authorization interrupt care at precisely the moment when timely access is most critical.

HF 3444 would remove unnecessary and dangerous barriers to life-saving treatment for those with opioid use disorder. I urge your support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mattson, MD
President, Minnesota Medical Association