



Wednesday, January 30th, 2019

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Policy Committee,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across Minnesota, I am writing today to urge you to vote “No” on HF400 when it comes before the committee. This bill would create a new off-budget special fund and additional government bureaucracy by passing down additional licensing fee burdens onto patients already struggling with increased health care costs.

The opioid crisis is something all key institutions in society need to work together to address and help provide solutions for. Yet, punishing Minnesota patients by making them pay more for the care and medication they need is not the answer. We urge you to oppose this bill and work to decrease health care costs, not increase them.

For years, the Minnesota Legislature has worked to address rising health care costs. In fact, removing unnecessary government-imposed costs from the health care system was the justification rightfully by a previous legislature and Governor Mark Dayton when they passed a bill to repeal the provider tax.

At a time when Minnesota is projected to already over collect \$1.5 billion in tax revenues above budget, lawmakers shouldn’t be considering new taxes – on anything. Yet we’ve already seen proposals to increase government-imposed costs on transportation, health care, and prescription drugs, along with higher payroll taxes on both employees and their employers.

Lawmakers should make use of funds the legislature already has at its disposal and prioritize the needs of our citizens who depend on pain medication as a tool during recovery. Our state is already collecting more revenue than projected. We should not go backwards to arbitrarily driving up health care costs, no matter how well-intentioned the rationale.

We urge the committee to reject these fee increases on patients and their families.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs
State Director
Americans for Prosperity - Minnesota