



April 14, 2026

Senator Melissa Wiklund, Chair  
Senate Health & Human Services Committee  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Wiklund,

We write today on behalf of pharmacy owners, pharmacists and their patients to urge legislators to take action this legislative session to ensure the continued strength and stability of Minnesota's community retail pharmacies.

Patients across Minnesota depend on Minnesota pharmacies as a cornerstone of our state's care delivery system. Our pharmacist are the healthcare provider we will see more often than any other in a given year. Like any healthcare provider, pharmacists and the pharmacies they own or work for cannot provide services and certainly not medications for less than their cost if we're going to expect them to stay in business.

Over 40 community pharmacies have closed in Minnesota since 2023 and this accelerated trend will continue if we don't act today. Minnesota has seen 44% of all pharmacies close over the past 10 years and most of them in the past 5. However, the one common denominator for their demise is a vast majority of prescription medication pharmacy claims, by both the commercial and public insurers and their PBMs, are reimbursed at less than the cost to the pharmacy. This math doesn't add up and is not sustainable.

We thank the Legislature for acting last year. However, Minnesota pharmacies have not seen one dime of relief or implementation of reform that you enacted last year. Additionally, the federal government, HHS-CMS, has not approved the DPDP program that was to be a bridge to actual cost reimbursement from the MN DHS MA program in 2025 and 2026. The Single PBM for DHS MA drug benefit claims and reimbursement enacted last session was supposed to be operational in 2027. Recently the Department informed the pharmacy community that the implementation of the SPBM is going to be delayed to 2028.

Minnesota community pharmacy needs relief now. We urge you to adopt the language in Article 4 that would fix these programs and get the dollars out to our struggling pharmacies for eligible MA pharmacy claims. The proposed fixes will go a long way to ensuring MA patients have pharmacy and pharmacist health services.

Ensuring Minnesota pharmacy's short-term viability and long-term MA reimbursement stability protects not only vulnerable pharmacies but patients across Minnesota.

We respectfully ask your support of repurposing the SF4612's Article 4 to stabilize and preserve its critical role in Minnesota's community pharmacy infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Anderson', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Benjamin Anderson, PharmD, MPH, FASHP, FMSHP  
President, Minnesota Society of Health-System Pharmacists

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sarah M. Westberg', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sarah Westberg, PharmD, FCCP, BCPS  
President, Minnesota Pharmacists Association