



Monday, April 1, 2019

Key Vote Alert: Vote “No” on HF400 – New Opioid Licensing Fees

Dear Members of the Minnesota Senate,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across Minnesota, I am writing today to urge a “No” vote on final passage of HF400. 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.

As a “Key Vote”, Americans for Prosperity – Minnesota may include this vote in our end-of-session Legislative Scorecard that will be shared with your constituents.

The opioid crisis is something all key institutions in society need to work together to address and help solve, and AFP-MN is committed to working with anyone to find a solution. But punishing certain 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. Curbing health care costs has been a bipartisan issue for a number of years at the capitol. This tax on opioids would do just the opposite.

At a time when Minnesota is projected to already over collect \$1 billion in tax revenues above budget, lawmakers shouldn’t be considering new taxes – on anything. Yet we’ve already seen proposals to increase taxpayer costs on transportation, health care, and prescription drugs, along with higher payroll taxes (on both employees and their employers) and mandates and regulations that will lead to higher energy costs.

Lawmakers should make use of funds the legislature already has at its disposal instead of targeting 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 Senate to reject these fee increases on patients and their families.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs
State Director
Americans for Prosperity - Minnesota