

Important Legislation in Minnesota Needs Your Support!

Legislators in the state of Minnesota began the process, this Spring, of reviewing legislation which would require the Minnesota State Board of Pharmacy to develop rules governing the standards of pharmaceutical services for individuals needing plasma protein therapies. The bills further stipulated that pharmacy services are based on standards established by patient group medical advisory committees and professional societies. The bills, SF 339 and HF 410, were introduced by Minnesota State Senator Kathy Sheran of Mankato and Minnesota State Representative Kim Norton of Rochester, respectively.

The Senate bill was heard by the Senate's Health committee in March. Several IDF volunteers testified on the bill. That committee saw merit in the intent of parts of the bill and amended it. The proposed bill originally had a section that required health plans to provide patients with the therapy that is the most medically appropriate. That section was amended out of the bill. Even as amended, it is still very important for residents of Minnesota who use plasma-based therapies, including intravenous and subcutaneous immunoglobulin to know there will be standards of care for pharmaceutical services. There was no action taken on the House bill.

Action on both bills will take place after the legislature reconvenes after January, 2010. In the meantime IDF will be using the time between now and January to encourage our Minnesota volunteers to meet with their legislators in their home districts and advocate for the passage of these bills. For more information, you may contact IDF at idf@primaryimmune.org.