



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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SAINT PAUL 55155

ARNE H. CARLSON  
GOVERNOR

April 21, 1994

The Honorable Allan Spear  
President of the Senate  
G-27 Capitol  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear President Spear:

I have vetoed and I am returning Chapter 481, Senate File 1694/House File 2088.

The bill as originally presented and heard received substantial support as a measure to clarify and improve procedures for the administration of neuroleptic medications to mentally ill persons. However, an author's amendment passed on the floor of the House on a voice vote, significantly changes the impact of the bill and makes it unacceptable policy.

The intent of the bill was to grant to guardians and conservators the authority to consent to the administration of these medications. The last-minute amendment imposes the requirement of a court hearing for this consent to be valid. This change was not subjected to any hearings, testimony, or fiscal analysis.

It seems clear that its effect at least would create enormous legal costs for the state and for counties, as well as for private wards and conservatees. There are at least 11,000 persons on Medical Assistance residing in nursing homes or intermediate care facilities for whom this sort of medication is typically prescribed.

If it is feasible to approve a bill with the basic provisions and avoid the last-minute language requiring the court hearing, I will certainly sign the bill into law.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arne H. Carlson".

ARNE H. CARLSON  
Governor

The Honorable Allan Spear  
April 21, 1994  
Veto Message Chapter 481, SF 1694  
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c: Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader  
Senator Dean Johnson, Minority Leader  
Representative Irv Anderson, Speaker of the House  
Representative Steve Sviggum, Minority Leader  
Chief Senate Author(s)  
Chief House Author(s)  
Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House  
Ms. Joan Anderson Growe, Secretary of State