

December 8, 2020

The Honorable Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Peggy Flanagan
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul Gazelka
Senate Majority Leader
95 University Avenue West
Minnesota Senate Building, Room 3113
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Melissa Hortman
Speaker of the House
463 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz, Lt. Governor Flanagan, Senator Gazelka, and Representative Hortman:

We, the undersigned, respectfully request that you pass assisted living licensure transition language in the December 2020 Special Session to provide a clear pathway to assisted living licensure for establishments currently registered as Housing With Services or licensed as Home Care Providers. The consensus bill language we have prepared with the Minnesota Department of Health and Minnesota Department of Human Services represents our best efforts and combined knowledge of how to improve the transition from a two-requirement structure into a single one.

The Minnesota Department of Health, the Minnesota Department of Human Services, and the undersigned all agree additional work and agreement is needed in the 2021 legislative session, and are committed to making that happen.

We understand that this carefully crafted and hard worked compromise is contingent on the inclusion of critical transition language for the Minnesota Board of Executives for Long-Term Services and Supports (BELTSS). Failing to pass transition bill language and accompanying funding for BELTSS would be catastrophic for the effective implementation of assisting living licensure in 2021. This proposal and its associated funding should be considered and passed on its own merits.

Failing to act would create continued confusion regarding licensure processes and timelines, impacting residents, caregivers, and providers of assisted living services.

While we recognize that minor, technical changes may be necessary, we respectfully request that no further substantive changes or amendments be added without agreement from the signatory organizations.

Thank you so much for your continued dedication to vulnerable adults and your willingness to make this consensus bill a top priority for your respective caucuses in the remaining days of 2020.

Signed,



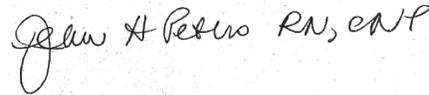
Cheryl Hennen
State Ombudsman for
Long-Term Care



Kristine Sundberg
Executive Director
Elder Voice Family Advocates



Beth McMullen, Vice President
Alzheimer's Association



Jean Peters RN, CNP, President
Elder Voice Family Advocates



Amanda Vickstrom
Minnesota Elder Justice Center



Gayle Kvenvold
LeadingAge Minnesota



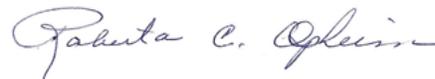
Ron Elwood, Supervising Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project



Patti Cullen, President/CEO
Care Providers of Minnesota



Will Phillips, AARP MN
State Director



Roberta Opheim
State Ombudsman for
Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities



cc: Senator Karin Housley
Representative Jennifer Schultz
Senator Susan Kent
Representative Ryan Winkler
Representative Kurt Daudt
Senator Julie Rosen
Senator Michelle Benson
Senator Jim Abeler
Representative Lyndon Carlson
Representative Tina Liebling
Commissioner Jan Malcolm
Commissioner Jodi Harpstead