



Dear Members of the Omnibus Human Services Finance Bill Conference Committee,

My name is Jodi Fullhart, and I am the HR Director at New Dimensions Home Health Care. New Dimensions Home Health Care, Inc. is a locally owned, Medicare-certified home health care agency serving 19 counties, with a home office in Fergus Falls. New Dimensions offers in-home private duty nursing (also called home care nursing), physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, skilled nursing, home health aide and PCA services, homemaking (light housekeeping), and respite care. Our company was founded in 1993.

New Dimensions is immensely appreciative of the investments both the House and Senate propose for home care services, specifically the proposals for increased investments in Homemaker services, home health and home care nursing, and the PCA program. Addressing the foundational reimbursement rate challenges are paramount to home care agencies having the means to continue to provide much needed home care services. These investments are significant steps to assuring Minnesotans have access to that service.

On behalf of New Dimensions, all home care agencies, and Minnesotans, we urge this committee to adopt the Senate position on the proposed investments for home health and home care nursing. We are extremely grateful and appreciative of the significant investment proposed by the House and the Senate for the Personal Care Assistance program, however, we need you to understand how crucial it is to have those proposed investments raised to a level sufficient to cover the SEIU contract requirements, which is not currently accomplished in either proposal.

Caregivers in this industry are leaving PCA positions for higher wages in fast food restaurants, big box stores, and gas stations, leaving our most vulnerable Minnesotans without the care they need and deserve. This is a phenomenon that is heartbreaking to experience as we explain to our clients why we cannot provide PCA care for them to stay in their homes. To quote a client, "Does human life and sustaining that life and it's quality have a lesser value?" That is hard to explain as a nurse myself. We need to do better for our most vulnerable populations. These funds for better wages and benefits for home care staff will allow us to hire and retain healthcare workers and increase those services for those with disabilities and complex health conditions in our community.

Thank you for being champions of home care services. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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