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February 4th, 2015

Representative Nick Zerwas

433 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Zerwas,

I am writing as the State Ombudsman for Long-Term Care to support **Senate File 107** and **House File 210** -The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (**CARE**) **Act**. The Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care is a service of the Minnesota Board on Aging. The Office advocates for adults who need or receive long-term care. The Office provides both individual advocacy and systemic advocacy through both health care reform and long-term care reform.

The Office receives thousands of calls on an annual basis, and works with many caregivers who have questions or need resources for their loved one. The Office strongly supports the **CARE Act** and urges the legislature to recognize the extensive support that family caregivers provide. The **CARE Act** features three important provisions that support family caregivers keep their loved ones safe at home:

1. The name of the family caregiver is recorded when a loved one is admitted into a hospital;
2. The family caregiver is notified if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home; and,
3. The facility must provide an explanation and live instruction of the medical tasks that the family caregiver will perform at home.

The Office recognizes and supports the fact that family caregivers often provide extensive unpaid care for family members, which in turn often keeps people out of more costly alternatives. Family caregivers must receive more information and training about the care expected to be given by them, which in turn then can prevent people from returning to costly hospital stays and/or more permanent costly permanent alternatives.

The Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care is very supportive of the **CARE Act** and encourages the passage of **SF107** and **HF 210**.

Sincerely,

Deb Holtz
State Ombudsman for Long-Term Care
MN Board on Aging