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May 1, 2023

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

We are Bill English, CEO, and Nicoleen Meyer, VP of Clinical Services, with Accurate Home Care. Together, we have over 20 years of experience in home care in Minnesota. Accurate Home Care is a comprehensive-licensed and Medicare-certified home health agency located in Otsego. In addition to comprehensive home care, we also provide Traditional Personal Care Assistance (PCA) services to patients throughout the state of Minnesota (under Accurate PCA Services). Since 2002, Accurate Home Care has cared for patients from ages 0 to 100 providing everything from housekeeping to complex 24-hour nursing care, helping patients remain as independent as possible in the comfort of their own homes.

The proposals by both the House and Senate to benefit home care services, particularly the proposals for increased investments in Homemaker services through the Elderly and Disability Waivers, home health and home care nursing, and the Personal Care Assistance programs, are greatly appreciated. The investments represent an effort to improve the rate challenges that plague the industry, limiting access to home care services for your fellow Minnesotans.

We specifically urge the conference committee to adopt the Senate position on the proposed investments for home health and home care nursing. With regard to the proposals by the House and Senate for the Personal Care Assistance program, while appreciated, these proposed investments fall short of the level sufficient to cover the SEIU contract requirements.

Of note, a PCPO agency like Accurate PCA Services (providing traditional PCA services) provides additional oversight to services for recipients, and yet lives in the shadow of the SEIU/PCA Choice wages. To remain competitive in today's wage market requires a wage that leaves no sustainable operating margin with the proposed rate changes. This trickles all the way down to the home of your elderly neighbor, who needs assistance, but the "Help Wanted" sign is permanently hung in the window. We want nothing more than to recruit and retain high-quality caregivers, from PCAs to Registered Nurses, but cannot do so without a competitive wage to earn a second glance from most candidates. Simply put, the proposed funds for the PCA program are just not enough.

Thank you for standing up for home care services. We would enjoy the opportunity for further dialogue with you, at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill English".

Bill English, MA, LP  
CEO, Accurate Home Care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicoleen Meyer".

Nicoleen Meyer, RN, PHN, CPN, MHCA Board Member  
VP of Clinical Services, Accurate Home Care