

April 7, 2022

Re: Support for palliative care provisions in HF 4706

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

As Minnesota organizations committed to ensuring the best possible quality of life for patients dealing with serious illness and disease, we are writing to thank you for including two palliative care provisions in the House Health Finance Bill: HF 2517 (Reyer), which would fund the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council and HF 3148 (Reyer), legislation to modify the definition of palliative care in state statute.

Palliative care helps reduce the symptoms, pain, and stress of a serious illness. While many think of palliative care only in terms of end-of-life, hospice-oriented care, its application and potential impact are much broader. Palliative care is appropriate at any age and at any stage of a serious illness and can be provided alongside curative treatment. We support language to modify state statute to better reflect what palliative care is and does. A correct and comprehensive definition can help in clarifying to providers and patients that palliative care is not synonymous with end-of-life care.

The Palliative Care Advisory Council has been tasked to assess the availability of palliative care in Minnesota, analyze barriers to palliative care, and make recommendations to the legislature. We support continued funding for the Council and its important work.

On behalf of our organizations, we thank you for including palliative care provisions in HF 4706.

Signed,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
A Breath of Hope
The Aliveness Project
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association
American Heart Association
American Indian Cancer Foundation
The Arc Minnesota
CentraCare
Children's Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society

Mama Shu
Mayo Clinic
Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare
Minnesota Cancer Alliance
Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care
Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Rural Health Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
ONS Metro Minnesota
Rainbow Health
Twin Cities Medical Society