May 4, 2021

Dear Omnibus State Government Finance Bill Conferees:

The Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare is a coalition of 60+ organizations including health care providers, disability advocates, mental health experts, faith communities, and veterans' organizations. We are committed to ensuring better healthcare throughout life's journey, and we advocate for compassionate alternatives to the legalization of assisted suicide.

We urge the conferees to include the Veteran Suicide Prevention Initiative found at UEH1952-1, Article 1, Section 37, lines 18.28-19.2 in the Omnibus State Government Finance bill.

Tragically, suicide claims around 100 Minnesota veterans per year. The Veteran Suicide Prevention Initiative would directly address the problem of death by suicide among veterans in Minnesota by providing mental health support and outreach resources. This initiative is designed to support healthy and empowered individuals, families, and communities to help them increase protection from suicide risk.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Lynn Varco
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