

May 9, 2022

Re: SF 4410, Health and Human Services Omnibus Bill

Chair Abeler, Chair Liebling and members of the Health and Human Services Conference 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 respectfully requires two palliative care provisions, funding for the Palliative Care Advisory Council and legislation to modify the definition of palliative care in state statute, be included in the final Health and Human Services omnibus bill.

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 (House Article 2, Sec. 28 and Senate Article 13, Sec. 8) 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. **Thank you to both the House and Senate for including this language in their health omnibus bills.**

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 (House language) for the Council and its important work.**

On behalf of our organizations, we look forward to supporting your efforts to ensure this language is included in any final health omnibus bill.

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 Medical Association
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