

May 5, 2021

Conference Committee Members

We are writing to encourage you to adopt the provision found in the Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services bill (SF2360) found at Article 14, section 66 as well as the corresponding appropriation. This language authorizes and funds the steps needed to bring PACE (Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) to Minnesota. Presbyterian Homes and Services as well as the LTC Imperative has endorsed this legislation, as it provides a path forward to implementing a program of integrated care for frail dual eligible seniors in Minnesota. This legislation would fund a study to determine the potential viability of rate setting and a related administrative process for this program.

PACE uniquely promotes the independence of dual eligible seniors who, often with family support want to maintain their independence in the community but have compliance or medically complex needs that would otherwise result in nursing home placement. PACE programs currently operate through 138 sponsors/programs in other states and has been proven successful. While PACE was authorized in Minnesota in 2011, there has not been a viable rate setting methodology established to support a program. Now, 10 years later, we believe that cost changes in the system will now make the program viable.

We are sensitive to concerns about growing the Health and Human Services Budget and would emphasize that a unique component of PACE programs, is that the rate setting can NOT exceed what the cost would be under current state expenditures for Medicaid. The PACE Medicare rate component is risk adjusted. Click on the following link for additional background information about PACE: https://www.npaonline.org/sites/default/files/4068_pace_infographic_update_mar2021%20%281%29.pdf.

Within the next year, Minnesota will have more than 1 million seniors. PACE is a proven program that provides strong clinical outcomes, very high satisfaction of seniors and their families while controlling costs with a fully capitated system at less than current costs. We urge you to include this important provision in your final conference report.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any further questions, please contact Wayne Olson, Program Advisor Presbyterian Homes and Services, wolson@preshomes.org

Sincerely,



Dan Lindh
CEO Presbyterian Homes and Services