

ECUMEN[®]

May 1, 2023

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

My name is Kim Holien and I am the Director of Clinical Operations for Ecumen Home Care. Ecumen is a nonprofit provider of home care and hospice, as well as housing and care for older adults. We provide home care in northern, central, and southern Minnesota.

We are grateful for the investments that both the House and Senate have proposed for home care services – specifically the proposals for increased investments in Homemaker services, home health and home care nursing. These are significant steps in addressing the foundational reimbursement rate challenges that are significantly impacting access to home care services that many Minnesotans need.

Specifically, I urge the conference committee to adopt the Senate position on the proposed investments for home health and home care nursing. We also greatly appreciate the significant investment proposed by the House and Senate for the Personal Care Assistance program, however we do need to express again how critical it is that those proposed investments are raised to a sufficient level.

Along with my Ecumen home care colleagues, I have the privilege of seeing the impact our work has on the lives of Minnesotans – both on our clients and their loved ones. We're allowing people to make choices as they age, and to receive care where they want to be – at home. And, we play a key role in alleviating the current backlog in our hospitals.

Thank you for championing home care services. Please reach out to me with any questions.

Kim Holien

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