

Our son Colin has lived at High Island Creek Residence for 5 years. We, as his parents, carefully chose HICR because of its caring and compassionate reputation centered in the rural community of Arlington. There is a core of staff that have worked at HICR for several years and know each client well and on a daily basis display true skill and wisdom.

We have been thrilled to see Colin thrive and mature, becoming more independent, with regular responsibilities in keeping his room neat, helping with food prep and cleanup, doing his laundry and positively relating to his fellow housemates, all under the diligent guidance of the staff at HICR. With 12 clients all requiring this help and direction, we have been very grateful and quite amazed at the workload the staff at HICR carries.... and we have been very impressed.

When COVID hit, the whole group had to stay quarantined, adding to an already very heavy load of responsibility for the staff. Yet they carried on and our son and the others came through just fine.

However, with some recent staff changes HICR is now experiencing a shortage of staff. Our son is not able to get to the library to check out books or go to the store for a treat when he has been rewarded for a task well done, because it requires a staff person to take him. If there is not enough staff to stay back with the others, Colin doesn't get to go. This is happening all the time at HICR now.

Having come through COVID, now is such an important time to rebuild, encourage and strengthen the clients at HICR by getting them out in the community, taking part in activities and renewing confidence in their relationships with one another.

We want to see this amazing facility continue to impact our sons and daughters, giving them all the opportunities they deserve. This can happen if you will consider providing the increase in funding by passing HF 568.

Sincerely,  
Karen and Dale Anderson  
5854 Oakland Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55417

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The Lutheran Home - Hope Residence desperately needs an increase in the daily reimbursement rate.

The shortage of staff is a big problem. There are 2 people working where 3 are needed. The residents wait for their turn for help, many times in great discomfort.

When visiting we have heard the people in charge calling people, asking them to work an extra day. I believe there are several areas short of staff.

A fund increase is desperately needed.

Thank you for listening.

Richard and Patricia Glasser

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Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Service Finance Committee,

We are writing this letter on behalf of our daughter Emily Ewald, who lives at the Hope Residence in Belle Plaine. Having been born at 26 weeks in October of 1985, she is mentally delayed and in need of the kind of care we cannot provide due to limitations on our part. Emily is a delightful young woman who lets her personality shine in all that she does, yet again, she needs total care because of her mental limitations. She has been a resident of Hope since 2007 and thrives there. Even though her quality of life is impaired Hope Residence provides her with a quality of life, which in our opinion, she can receive nowhere else. It is a wonderful service they provide in giving residents like Emily a full life on their level. It is our prayer, our hope, that you would see the need to increase the funding needed to assist Hope Residence with its financial needs so that it may continue to produce the excellent care and service it provides. While we do not know the ins and outs of all that is involved in your decisions, we know that they will go beyond only the financial issues involved and include the excellent care and service people like Emily receive at Hope Residence. Thank you for listening and we wish you well on your work.

Sincerely,

Gregory and Cheryl Ewald

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Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Human Services Finance Committee,

We have heard for some time from the staff at our son's group home (HICR) letting us know that the daily reimbursement rate is the lowest in the state for any intermediate care facility in the State of Minnesota. That rate is set by the State of Minnesota, is based on cost reports from 2000, and has not been updated since. The current daily rate is \$119.65 per day; the lowest in the state.

We want you to hear our voices at the hearing scheduled this Thursday, February 2 for legislation that will significantly affect the daily rate at HICR. Please pass legislation and increase the daily reimbursement rate from \$119.65/day to \$469.65/day. We stand with the advocates for this bill, The Association of Residential Resources of Minnesota (AARM).

Please hear our frustrations and pass this legislation so caring staff doesn't have to choose between minimum wage jobs flipping burgers and caring for our son!

Scott Whitehead

Shakopee, MN

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Chair Noor & members of the Human Services Finance Committee:

I am a parent of a resident at High Island Creek Residence (HICR) in Arlington, MN. We recently learned that HICR has one of the lowest daily reimbursement rates in MN. We also

learned that the rate is set by the State of Minnesota. The rates were based on cost reports in 2000 and have not been updated since!! The current daily rate is \$119.65 per day and is the lowest rate for any intermediate care facility in the State of Minnesota.

This is a major workforce crisis and passing this legislation is so critical. Please Chair Noor and Members of the Human Service Finance Committee take this legislation and pass this. It will make an enormous improvement for the residence of HICR!

We are very concerned that this legislation passes. Our loved one is affected by the low rates and what a difference it would make if this legislation passes. We urge you to pass this legislation please.

We stand with the advocates for this bill, the Association of Residential Resources of Minnesota (ARRM). Please increase the daily rate!!

Please hear our voice and pass this legislation. Residents of High Island Creek are worth it!  
Sincerely,

Joy Whitehead

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Hello Everyone,

I am guardian and sister to a person living in an icf in Arlington which has 12 residents and licensed for 13. This icf receives the lowest funding in the state, nearly 50 percent less than the average icf. An icf is supposed to be a higher level of care than family foster care, but yet Arlington receives the same amount, \$119 per diem as a very able bodied person at family foster care would. Current ratio at Arlington one staff to six people required minimum. Family foster would require one to four ratio. Doesn't make sense! My sister as well as all the others have no one to one time, limited if any social outings, which is part of their programs. With limited per diem, only the minimum gets done, like meals, meds etc. Foster care allows for individual assessments and programs, allocating staffing accordingly. At least if icf paint a broad brush for per diem, it should be enough to provide for adequate staffing to support more than the very basic needs. Clients should be able to have individual time, going to a movie, bowling etc. Currently, everywhere they go they are together, work, church, leisure time, dining time at their home, everyone needs breaks for roommates. I fully support the bill presented to increase funding. It is long overdue. regards,

Diane Dunham  
32928 Lake Emily Road, Saint Peter, MN

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Dear, Chair Noor and the Members of the Humas Services Finance Committee.

Subject: ICF Task Force

Hello, I am writing this letter to address current daily rate that is received for care of my loved one. My sister moved into the Hope Residence in November, and we are so happy with the care she receives. My family and I love that this facility takes such great care of the individuals they serve.

The increase is needed to better serve the people that reside in these facilities. Since my sister Rita has moved into Hope Residence, she has amazed us with how happy she is. My sister has always been very active but since her diagnosis of Dementia she is very confused and forgetful, but she remains very active. She has participated in many activities like, bowling, and going to Christmas light show at Severs. Next week my sister will be participating in PROM. She will get to dress up and enjoy an evening dancing and enjoying herself. We understand how much it costs to plan and facilitate these types of activities and with that I find it crucial to look at the current daily rate of \$214.86 and increase it to a more suitable amount. We also see how much the Staff at the Lutheran Home work, and we understand that there is a staff shortage. Please help by supporting our loved ones and increasing the daily rate. Do better for our loved ones that are most vulnerable!!!!

Nancy Hintgen

Sister and Guardian to Rita Stoffel, a loved and valued resident at The Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine, MN

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MN Chair Noor and members of the Human Service Finance Committee,

We are writing on behalf of our daughter Anita Richards. Anita (38) requires 24/7/365 care due to her being blind, non-verbal and severe to profoundly mentally delayed. She is in need of regular exercise that is appropriate for her. This requires trained staff. The Lutheran Home in Belle Plaine has done a wonderful job with the resources they have, but they are critically short of staff required to care for Anita and other clients.

Additional funding (the last increase was in 2000) is needed to meet the needs of residents at the Lutheran Home.

Please make appropriate increases.

Sincerely,  
Lew & Cheryl Richards

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