



**THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE, INC.
222 Plato Blvd East
St. Paul Minnesota 55107**

January 30, 2023

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

This letter is to ask for your support of HF 568. The Phoenix Residence, Inc. (PRI) is a nonprofit organization that supports, some of the most vulnerable, individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. In addition, many of the individuals we support require total care with all activities of daily living due to physical disability and or health condition. The Intermediate Care Facility (ICF) is an important partner in the contingency of care between community services and skilled nursing care.

Please support HF 568 to provide a much-needed rate increase for ICF providers. The workforce is in a state of crisis with workforce shortages impacting every aspect of our ability to help individuals live full and productive lives. We spend a tremendous amount of time centered on staffing issues and emergency situations created by not having adequate staff. We currently have about 40 FT positions open at PRI, coupled with a high turnover and absenteeism, due to childcare and, transportation issues experienced by Direct Support Professionals who are devoted to doing this work but find it challenging to sustain their lives given low wages.

It is critical that we pass legislation to increase rates and funding for ICF providers. They are one of the only groups not included in Home and Community Based Service funding. We need legislative support to prioritize people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and to investment in providers and the workforce that supports disability services across the continuum.

Sincerely,

THE PHOENIX RESIDENCE INC.

Darlene Scott

President & CEO