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March 7, 2023

Dear Senator Morrison and Representative Reyer:

Health Dimensions Group (MN) is proud to be a member of LeadingAge MN, and I am personally honored to be on the Board of Directors of LeadingAge MN. Our member organizations are committed to providing safe, quality care for Minnesota's seniors in all the places they call home. We strive to continue to innovate and transform the delivery of care to enhance the experience of aging for our seniors. To that end, we believe that the time is now for Minnesota to take the next steps to fully implement the Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) as a model of care for delivering services to frail seniors. We want to thank you for bringing forward SF1640/HF1596 which will fund the federally required actuarial study and rate setting methodology necessary for implementation of PACE.

PACE is a nationally recognized and supported community-based model of interdisciplinary care for frail older adults authorized by the federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA). The BBA established the PACE model of care as a permanent entity within the Medicare program and enables States to provide PACE services to Medicaid beneficiaries as a State plan option. This capitated model of care fully integrates all Medicare and Medicaid services and all medically necessary services. Participation in PACE allows eligible consumers to receive a comprehensive service package that enables them to continue living at home in their community while receiving services rather than needing to move to a nursing home. Participants must be at least 55 years old, live in the community in the PACE site service area, and be certified by the State as eligible for nursing home level of care to be eligible.

My organization, Health Dimensions Group (HDG), is a Minneapolis-based management and consulting firm with deep roots in Minnesota, as well as in the national PACE community. As one of the largest PACE Technical Assistance Centers through the National PACE Association, we work across the country to assist current and potential PACE providers and sponsors. Our PACE experts support new programs with market and financial feasibility studies, business plan development, and assistance with application submission to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. HDG also provides start-up and implementation assistance. Support for established PACE programs includes strategic planning and positioning, market penetration studies, program expansion feasibility and application assistance, operational assessments and performance reviews, and financial assessments with benchmarking. We stand ready to assist our fellow providers in bringing PACE to life in Minnesota.

While we work across the country bringing the blessing of PACE to families and seniors, we are hopeful that our home State of Minnesota can join 28 states plus DC that currently have active PACE programs (launched and operating). With PACE, older adults have a team of health care professionals working with them to make sure they get the vital recreational, social, medical,

mental health, nutritional and spiritual services they need. The wrap-around services seniors receive through PACE have allowed the more than 55,000 older adults nationwide to thrive in the communities they live and work in.

While we acknowledge that it will be important to evaluate rates to determine viability and sustainability of PACE programs in Minnesota and there will be a competitive RFP process following rate setting to select PACE providers, our hope is that by sharing this letter of support, we demonstrate the significant interest our community of providers has in this model of care. We look forward to working with you on this and other permanent solutions to ensure seniors have access to the quality services they deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erin Shvetzoff Hennessey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Erin Shvetzoff Hennessey  
CEO  
Health Dimensions Group