



HOSPITAL & CLINIC CAMPUS
49725 COUNTY 83
STAPLES MN 56479

SENIOR CAMPUS
401 PRAIRIE AVE NE
STAPLES MN 56479

February 14, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

As President and CEO of Lakewood Health System, I would like to express my support of the following legislative proposals in regard to palliative care. Lakewood Health System's Senior Services Medical Director, Dr. Julie Benson, has served on the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council since its inception in 2017.

HF 2517: this bill would continue funding the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council. This group was first created in 2017 and since that time has taken a look at palliative care in Minnesota, barriers to this care, and provided legislative reports on ways to address these barriers. The bill would fund the council at \$44k a year. The money goes directly to the Minnesota Department of Health.

HF 3148: this bill would modify the state definition of palliative care. Right now, Minnesota state statute incorrectly defines palliative care as care for incurable diseases, but we know that palliative care is for any stage, outcome, or prognosis of a serious condition, and can be provided alongside curative treatment. The definition was a recommendation in the Palliative Care Advisory Council's legislative reports and the Council supports this bill. The goal of this bill is to support efforts to educate the public on what palliative care is, and to set up for any future work around access, reimbursement, training, etc.

Respectfully,

Tim Rice,

President/CEO

Lakewood Health System