

ECUMEN[®]

March 7, 2023

Dear Senator Morrison and Representative Reyer:

As nonprofit providers of senior care, our 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.

We are hopeful that 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 nonprofit 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,



Shelley Kendrick,
President and CEO,
Ecumen