



05/01/2023

Dear Members of the Omnibus Human Services Finance Bill Conference Committee,

My name is Olga Baumberger, and I am the VP of Development and Strategic Planning at Metropolitan Community Services. Our agency is a non-profit multispecialty provider established 10 years ago. We serve over 300 older Minnesotans and individuals with disabilities that require hands-on care in their homes.

I also serve on the Board of Directors for the MN Home Care Association, a statewide association of organizations providing a wide spectrum of home-based care services to older Minnesotans and those with disabilities and complex health conditions.

I greatly appreciate the investments both the House and Senate propose for home care services, specifically the proposals for increased investments in Homemaker services (across the Elderly and Disability Waivers), home health and home care nursing, and the Personal Care Assistance program.

These investments are significant steps forward in addressing the foundational reimbursement rate challenges that are so significantly impacting access to needed home care services for Minnesotans.

Specifically, I urge the conference committee to adopt the Senate position on the proposed investments for home health and home care nursing. We also greatly appreciate the significant investment proposed by the House and Senate for the Personal Care Assistance program, however, we do need to express again how critical it is that those proposed investments are raised to a level sufficient to cover the SEIU contract requirements, which is currently not accomplished in either proposal.

These funds for better wages and benefits for home care staff will allow us to increase access to home care services for older Minnesotans and those with disabilities and complex health conditions in our community by making us more competitive in the current job market. We will be able to attract more people to work in the home care industry, thus allowing us to serve more clients. We will also be able to attract more professionals with education and experience in particular fields such as mental health and complex health-related needs to provide better quality care for our clients.



Thank you for championing home care services and please reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

*Olga Baumberger*

Olga Baumberger,

VP of Development & Strategic Planning

Metropolitan Community Services