



March 17, 2025

To: Members of the House Labor & Workforce Committee

CC: Rep. Esther Agbaje

Re: HF339

Dear Members of the House Labor Committee and Rep. Agbaje:

On behalf of the Long-Term Care Imperative, which represents over 2,000 providers across the long-term care continuum, we share our opposition to HF339, a bill that would provide \$1 million in grant funding for worker organizations to conduct duties approved by the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board.

Respectfully, we acknowledge that per Minnesota statute, certified worker organizations will be approved by the Board to conduct one hour of training every two years for nursing home workers; however, the LTCI has serious concerns with this proposed use of state dollars.

In light of a limited budget surplus this biennium and a \$6 billion deficit, we believe the priority of state dollars should go to nursing home workers, not organizations that provide training. This is particularly important in the context of the Governor's proposed 2% Medicaid cap on operating expenses. The operating rate is what pays for the wages of nursing caregivers, housekeeping and dietary staff. It also pays for the residents' food and activities.

Finally, while we can appreciate that completing these tasks carry operating costs for those prospective organizations, we must point out that the entire construct of the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board is poised to require nursing homes to comply with employment standards they cannot afford. Due in part to the 21-month delay in payment and no upfront funding to cover these mandates, nursing homes will have no choice but to comply at the expense of paying for something else. To see potential funding going to support training responsibilities but have no funding for nursing homes or their workers is extremely disappointing and upsetting.

We respectfully ask that you do not support HF339. Instead, we urge you to find a path forward for HF1419 which not only rejects the Governor's Medicaid cuts, it protects nursing home jobs and funds workers' wages.