



KAPLAN WOODS

CARE HOME

285 Cedardale Dr SE

Owatonna, MN

55060

507-451-5327

Chair Abeler and Members of the Committee,

My name is Ashly Friedrichs and I am the Assistant General Manager at Kaplan Woods Care Home in Owatonna, Minnesota. Kaplan Woods is a 16 bed Class B Intermediate Care Facility, one of 118 in the state that care for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Our goal is to provide the same compassionate care and love to each of our residents that a wonderful mother or father would. Many of our residents don't have family members so we are their family.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of provisions included in the S.F. 4410 A-1 Delete Everything Amendment.

When I testified before the committee on the need for a rate increase for Kaplan Woods, I spoke to the very challenging individuals that we serve who have both behavioral and medical conditions. Many of our residents come from other care homes where the sending home gets to a point where they can't or no longer want to take care of a resident. We are focused on helping our residents thrive while making positive progress with both their health and behaviors.

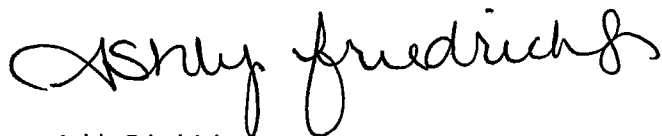
I am writing to support your investment in supporting services for people with developmental disabilities through rate reimbursement increases for intermediate care facilities for persons with

developmental disabilities (ICF/DD). **Specifically, we support the establishment of minimum daily rates for ICF/DD providers and the \$50 increase in the daily rates for those not impacted by the minimum daily rate proposal.**

The ICF/DD provisions included in this amendment will allow us to hire more skilled staff, increase wages and benefits to existing staff, and upgrade our aging facility to better care for the people we serve. The work we do is difficult and mostly thankless. We are sworn at, verbally abused, deal with stubbornness, bad behaviors, bad smells, difficult family members and a mountain of paperwork to document all of it to name a few things. We do it because everyone needs care, love and to live a life of purpose and that's what we strive for, for each of our residents.

Chair Abeler and members of the committee, I'm exceptionally grateful for being heard by you, and your willingness to address the needs of our "family" in such a meaningful way.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ashly Friedrichs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ashly Friedrichs

Assistant General Manager