



April 5, 2022

Senator Jim Abeler
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3215
St. Paul, MN 55155

Jamie Gulley
President

Dear Chair Abeler:

Jigme Ugen
Executive Vice President

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota & Iowa represents over 50,000 health care workers, including over 20,000 self-directed homecare workers. SF4410 has two major provisions that will address the current health care workforce crisis. They will significantly improve the lives of health care workers and the people we serve.

Phillip Cryan
Executive Vice President

First, we strongly support the \$185 million rate increase for the PCA/CFSS programs. Every day our members see the cost of living and the wages at competing jobs increase, while their wages remain flat. This investment would allow workers to continue in homecare with more competitive wages. Whenever there is a rate increase for our home care programs, it is very important that workers can negotiate a contract. A contract makes sure the money goes to the workers. We are still clarifying some details about how this will work with the Department of Human Services, but we understand that this money would be bargained over and part of a contract.

Brenda Hilbrich
Executive Vice President

Second, we support the \$225 million investment in nursing homes. We have supported HF3729/SF2967, as part of an overall agenda to address the nursing home workforce crisis that also includes HF3405, the Nursing Home Workforce Standards Board. Minnesota must invest significant new resources in nursing homes to address a workforce crisis that long pre-dates COVID-19. We think this crisis is caused in part by the lack of adequate opportunities for workers to have a say in setting industry workforce standards.

Rasha Ahmad Sharif
Executive Vice President

In addition, two other smaller provisions will have an outsized impact on homecare workers. Expanding PCA services to allow for driving will be an unnecessary burden for both clients and workers. Expanding the number of hours parents and spouses can work will help alleviate the workforce shortage and recognize their valuable, if too often unrewarded, contribution.

345 Randolph Avenue
Suite 100
St. Paul, MN
55102

Finally, we encourage further consideration of two provisions in the Governor's Human Service budget bill, SF4013, that do not appear in this bill. That bill contains funding for two Memorandum of Understandings that were submitted to the LCC-SER. We hope the legislature and the Governor will agree to fund and ratify those agreements.

651.294.8100
800.828.0206
(fax) 651.294.8200
www.seiuhcmnia.org

Sincerely yours,

Rick Varco
Political Director

RV:KLH/OPEIU12