

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Melissa Wiklund
Chair, Senate Health and Human Services Committee
95 University Avenue W.
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2107
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Support for palliative care language in Senate File 2995 A-2 amendment and spreadsheet

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Committee:

As Minnesota organizations committed to ensuring the best possible quality of life for patients facing serious illness and disease, we are writing to support the Palliative Care Advisory Council provisions in the A-2 amendment and HHS target spreadsheet to SF 2995.

Palliative care delivers better health and improved well-being for patients and caregivers while reducing the need for acute care. The inclusion of \$44,000 in annual funding for the Council (pg. 35 of the HHS target sheet), the elimination of the Council's sunset date (pg. 208 of the A-2 amendment), and term adjustments for Council members (pg. 199 of the A-2 amendment) will improve the Council's ability to promote these objectives.

We are especially grateful for your committee's support for a Department of Human Services study on the fiscal, medical, and social impacts of creating a palliative care benefit for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees (pg. 25 of the HHS target spreadsheet). The House has yet to adopt this position in its omnibus proposal, and we hope that your language will prevail as this legislation moves toward the governor's desk.

Thank you for your time and support of palliative care. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Dana Bacon, Senior Director, State Government Affairs at The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, at 612.308.0479 or dana.bacon@lls.org.

Sincerely,

A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association
The Arc Minnesota
Children's Minnesota
Epilepsy Foundation of Minnesota
Health Care Agent Literacy Project
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Mama Shu
Mayo Clinic

Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging
Minnesota Medical Association
Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care
Minnesota Ovarian Cancer Alliance
Minnesota Public Health Association
Minnesota Rural Health Association
National MS Society
MetroMN Oncology Nursing Society
Rainbow Health