



April 17, 2024

To: Members

CC: Sen. Wiklund

Re: SF 4699

Dear Chair Wiklund and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Long-Term Care Imperative, which represents over 2,000 providers across the senior care continuum, we express our gratitude for the inclusion of our language from SF4235 in this committee's omnibus bill:

- Section 10 Subdivision 3a. (b) Competency Evaluation Program: We are appreciative of the committee's support in the imperative's efforts to expand and accelerate the workforce pipelines for aging services careers. As our workforce becomes more diverse, language accommodations for those seeking to become a certified nursing assistant will be immensely helpful to those seeking a career in aging services.
- Section 11 Subdivision 10 Administration of medications by unlicensed personnel in nursing facilities: At a time of persistent workforce shortages senior care providers are leaning into innovative approaches to do more with less. This proposal is a common-sense workforce solution to remove barriers for individuals to become Trained Medication Aides (TMAs). These important steps to alleviate workforce challenges for Long Term Care providers are deeply appreciated. Without a workforce pipeline for aging services careers, providers will continue to downsize bed capacity and deny admissions due to lack of workforce. These actions will continue to create access problems for seniors needing nursing home level of care, whether those seniors are seeking discharge from a hospital or placement from the community.

Additionally, we are hopeful that the committee accepts a small amendment to include assisted living providers in the Summer Health Care Internship Program (SHCIP). The list of providers currently includes home care providers, but with the advent of licensure under 144G we would like to properly refer to assisted living providers as well.

We look forward to continuing to work with this committee to remove barriers to joining our workforce during a time of critical need.

Respectfully,

Kayla Khang
Government Affairs & Policy Manager
LeadingAge Minnesota
Member, Long Term Care Imperative

Nicole Mattson
Vice President of Strategic Initiatives
Care Providers of Minnesota
Member, Long Term Care Imperative