



April 2, 2024

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Sen. John Hoffman
95 University Avenue W
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2111
St. Paul, MN 55155

Rep. Mohamud Noor
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
379 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Noor and Senator Hoffman,

SEIU Healthcare Minnesota and Iowa represents more than 20,000 self-directed home care workers in the PCA, CDCS, CSG, and CFSS programs, as well as healthcare workers in hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. On their behalf, I write to express our union's support for SF4043/HF4675 and SF4045/HF4218. These bills include important updates to Minnesota's home care programs and will help to alleviate the care shortage that threatens the independence and dignity of aging and disabled Minnesotans.

Allowing caregivers to work overtime shifts is the safest and most accessible way to ensure that under-staffed Clients can maximize existing care staff. The incredible slate of improvements led by your committees last session was an enormous step toward an adequately staffed home care workforce, but we must also recognize that those improvements may take years to fully pull us out of the tailspin home care has experienced in recent decades. In the meantime, we must open avenues for existing caregivers to fully meet the needs of our Clients and loved ones.

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The existing Enhanced Rate model, designed by disabled advocates years ago, has been an effective tool for recruitment and retention of caregivers for Clients who are often the most difficult to staff. Expansion of this tool will provide Clients with greater recruiting opportunities, and better recognize caregivers for the level of care they

are providing. The existing model does currently lack clear direction for how the enhanced reimbursement rate should be awarded to a qualifying worker by fiscal intermediaries, and SF4045/HF4218 corrects this issue by clarifying and standardizing the use of these funds. This fix will eliminate the ambiguity and confusion we currently experience.

Sincerely yours,

Tyler Frank
Home Care Organizer and PCA of 14 years
SEIU Healthcare MN&IA

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