February 28, 2025

Senator John A. Hoffman (34, DFL) Chairman, Minnesota Senate Human Services Committee 5 University Avenue W. Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 2111 St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Hoffman,

I am writing on behalf of Northwestern Health Sciences University in support of Senate File 1062 Direct Support Professional Certification Pilot Project and Senate File 1418 Minnesota Council on Direct Support Professionals. Both of these important milestone legislation initiatives are vital to solving Minnesota's direct care workforce shortage crisis for people with disabilities and older adults who rely upon direct care services for daily living.

We are learning in newspaper reports of the direct care worker shortage gap in Minnesota that is resulting in people being forced out of their homes into costly long term care facilities or suffering health complications leading to hospitalizations. We believe both Senate File 1026 and Senate File 1418 prepare Minnesota to carefully go to scale to solve this crisis for the greater good and common good of all in Minnesota.

Thank you for allowing me to share with you my support for Senate File 1062 and Senate File 1418.

Bushway

Sincerely,

Deborah Bushway, Ph.D.

President and Chief Executive Officer Northwestern Health Sciences University