



March 10, 2025

To: Human Services Committee Members

CC: Senator Hauschild

RE: SF1948; Submitted electronically to David Zak, Committee Administrator

Dear Chair Hoffman and members of the Human Services Committee:

On behalf of the Long-Term Care Imperative (LTCI), which represents over 2,000 providers across the senior care continuum, we write to support SF1948, a bill that would continue to support our rural, critical access nursing homes in Minnesota.

According to a 2025 survey of our members, 70% of nursing homes saw improved financial performance 2024 compared to 2023, thanks to the temporary investments made during the 2023 legislative session. Those investments allowed nursing homes to consolidate debt, provide one-time employee bonuses to staff, or pay off loans they took during the pandemic. As this committee knows, those investments ended December 31, 2024, and now nursing homes now expect negative financials in 2025 due to the compounding impact of a 21-month delay, unfunded workforce mandates, and sunset of the \$12.35 rate add-on.

The Imperative conducted research in December of 2023 to get a sense of Minnesotans' values and expectations for senior care:

- More than 4 in 5 Minnesotans believe seniors have a right to housing, care and support.
- 79% of Minnesotans believe the state is not prepared for the aging boom.
- 88% of rural Minnesotans expect care within 30-40 minutes of their home community.

The Critical Access Nursing Facility Program is an important lifeline for Minnesota's rural nursing homes, and we thank Sen. Hauschild for bringing this bill forward.

Respectfully,

The Long-Term Care Imperative