

LAKE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT HUMAN SERVICE CENTER

616 Third Avenue P.O. Box 128 TWO HARBORS, MINNESOTA 55616-0128

August 1, 1984

CAROL J. MORSE Director Telephone (218) 834-5681

Secretary of State Joan Anderson Growe Office of the Secretary of State 180 State Office Building St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Secretary Growe:

The following resolution was passed by the Lake County Social Service Department (composed of five elected county commissioners and two appointed members) regarding the difficulties being experienced in Lake County with "DRG Days" - Diagnostic Related Group hospital stay limits.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, all patients are not ready or able to leave the hospital when the "DRG Day" for their illness has elapsed, and,

WHEREAS, small hospitals are unable to absorb the cost of keeping these ill patients without receiving compensation for their expenses, and,

WHEREAS, these ill patients are being discharged from the hospital too ill to care for themselves, and often without family members to care for them, and,

WHEREAS, due to a moratorium on nursing home construction in Minnesota, there are few, if any, nursing home beds available to these individuals, and,

WHEREAS, due to these factors, the sick, frail elderly are turning to the local home health and social agencies for alternative care planning, and,

WHEREAS, the home health and social service in-home care services are in large part by local funding, and,

WHEREAS, this is a shift in costs from the federal level to the local level and also is causing harm to frail, elderly clients.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake County Social Service Board go on record protesting this cost shift to the local level, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Lake County Social Service Board is raising concern for the care of the frail elderly being returned home prematurely, and,

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this concern be conveyed to Senators Boschwitz and Durenberger and Representative Oberstar, as well as other senatorial candidates.

The foregoing was offered by Sandvik and declared adopted on the YEA vote of all present. ABSENT: Houle.

The Lake County Social Service Board is very interested in your early reply to their resolution. If you have further questions, feel free to con-

Very truly yours,

LAKE COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT

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Carol J. Morsel, Director

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