



To: Mark Schulz, MDH and DHS Staff and ALL Stakeholders

From: Kristine Sundberg, Executive Director; and Jean Peters, President

Re: Assisted Living Licensure Legislation

Date: March 8, 2021

Thank you to all who have worked under a tight time line to draft this consensus bill. Though we accomplished much, we all know there are many issues that have not been addressed in this bill and require further discussion.

It is imperative that assisted living licensure be fully implemented on August 1, 2021. The technical provisions of this bill will help the smooth implementation process to licensure and will significantly improve the quality of care in all LTC facilities and establish clearer standards for the providers.

Elder Voice Family Advocates, therefore, supports the provisions now in this bill draft. It is important, however, that we retain our right to address other issues that may arise this Session in other legislation. Additionally, Elder Voice encourages all stakeholders to work in good faith in the coming weeks to reach consensus on remaining important substantive issues and offer the consensus language as an amendment to the bill.

It is important to address a statement by the Long-Term Care Imperative regarding the agreement of 2019 that we all signed. The Imperative states in the March 5th memo that "over the past two years, stakeholders have operated under an agreement to not advance any legislation related to assisted living licensure without the support of all stakeholders..." There was no mention in that agreement regarding not advancing legislation in future Sessions. It only pertained to the agreement reached in 2019. That agreement did stipulate that "no further substantive changes or amendment be added without agreement from the signatory organizations," which we all complied.

The agreement also states, "None of us think it is perfect" and further states, "Our support for this does not negate policy or budget concerns that one or more of our organizations oppose within the HHS Omnibus budget." We all knew on May 14, 2019 that much more work would

be needed to address the many remaining issues of vital importance to the care and safety of residents in all assisted living facilities in the state.

We welcome additional discussion among the stakeholders to address the remaining issues of importance to the residents, providers and state.