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**CONTACT:**

Libbie Chapuran Lisa Foss Olson  
lchapuran@leadingagemn.org  lolson@careproviders.org  
715-216-1057 952-851-2483

**NEW SURVEY REVEALS THAT MINNESOTA SENIORS CONTINUE LOSING ACCESS TO CARE**

A survey of Minnesota nursing facilities conducted by the Long-Term Care Imperative in August revealed the devastating impact of inaction during the 2022 Legislative Session. Having ended without an agreement on a Health & Human Services Bill, Minnesota seniors—and their families-- are increasingly losing access to care due to the worsening financial outlook of nursing facilities.

* **Among respondents, up to 60% of nursing facilities have or will be reducing the number of seniors they care for due to staffing shortages.** Whenever a nursing home limits admissions, fewer seniors have access to care in their own communities, which impacts not only the seniors but also their families and friends.
* **The state's system to fund senior care is weakening the financial stability of nursing facilities.** Nearly half of nursing facilities are operating at an annual loss of $300,000 or more, but average losses are 5 times higher in Greater Minnesota. 43% of nursing facilities have no financial reserves, and many report they have no line of credit available to them.
* **Further, a sizeable number of respondents reported their financial outlook threatens their ability to continue operating.** Statewide, 20% of nursing facilities are considering selling or closing, up from 11% in April of this year. Six nursing homes have closed in 2022 alone, and potential closures threaten to take even more care options away from seniors.

The State of Minnesota plays a critical role in funding senior care:  Nursing facility revenue is dependent upon care rates set by the state. In assisted living, low-income seniors use Medicaid dollars through a state-regulated and funded Elderly Waiver program.

In both nursing facilities and assisted living settings, the rates provided by the state no longer cover the cost of care. Lagging state funds not only lead to financial losses but also hinder care facilities' ability to compete in a tight labor market. **When long-term care settings don't have enough caregivers to support Minnesota's one million seniors, aging adults lose access to care.**

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*The Long-Term Care Imperative is a collaboration of LeadingAge Minnesota and Care Providers of Minnesota, two of the state’s largest long-term care associations. The Long-Term Care Imperative is committed to advancing a shared vision and future for older adult housing, health care and supportive services.*