

## MINNESOTA IS FACING THE COLLAPSE OF ITS SENIOR CARE SYSTEM.

Minnesota's long-term care system needs support from the state to pay caregivers the wages they deserve and ensure access to care in all the places seniors call home.



*Our workforce crisis can only be solved with permanent investment from the State of Minnesota.*



# 23,000

positions throughout our settings are open, representing over 20% of Minnesota's caregiving workforce.



From Aug. through Dec. 2021, senior services experienced 1.25 times more resignations than hires, a rate that is unsustainable.



The professional caregivers in senior care are more diverse than workers in any other sector in Minnesota.

## SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL CAREGIVERS WITH WAGES THEY DESERVE

Caregiving is an honorable profession that requires special skills and training. But low wages make it difficult to attract and retain skilled, compassionate caregivers. Many leave the field for jobs with less stress and better compensation. The ability to increase pay is tied directly to state funding allocations and the regulatory requirements.

### SOLUTION:

A critical first step in addressing our workforce shortages in senior care is to elevate the wages for professional caregivers. Funding for permanent investments in Medicaid rates will allow us to raise wages, recruit new workers, and retain the dedicated professionals who care for Minnesota's seniors – whether they live in nursing homes, assisted living, or other home- and community-based settings.

### LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT:

#### Fund Permanent Wage Increases for Caregivers

- Without increased investments from the State, providers cannot afford to increase the pay for caregivers. They need your support.

#### Invest in Elderly Waiver

- Support the immediate implementation of the cost-based payment model for assisted living and other home- and community-based services partially put in place over the past five years.
- Bring CADI and BI customized living programs under Elderly Waiver to help address the needs of people with disabilities.

#### Improve the Value Based Reimbursement System

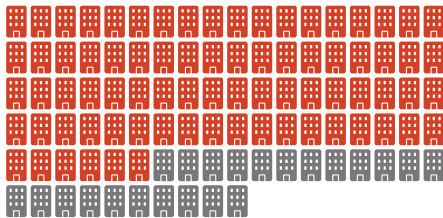
- Provide upfront funding to raise wages without having to wait for those investments to flow into rates over time.
- Eliminate a 21-month delay in nursing home reimbursement.
- Ensure wages for essential, non-direct care staff like cooks and housekeepers are responsive to changing labor costs by including them as a cost-based reimbursement.

**EARLY IN 2022, MINNESOTA WILL BECOME THE HOME TO OVER 1 MILLION SENIORS.**



With over 20,000 positions unfilled, more and more seniors will not be able to receive the care they need when they need it close to home.

*A severe shortage of professional caregivers impacts access to care for the seniors who need it.*



**78%**

of Minnesota's nursing homes are limiting admissions.

Nearly 35% of assisted living settings are also limiting the number of older adults they are able to serve.

The primary reason cited was insufficient staff to meet resident needs.

## **ENSURE ALL SENIORS HAVE ACCESS TO THE QUALITY CARE THEY NEED CLOSE TO HOME**

Our workforce crisis means a growing number of seniors cannot receive the long-term care they need when they need it and where they want to receive the care.

### **SOLUTION:**

To care for the growing number of older adults in Minnesota, we must support new and alternative care models and fix regulatory barriers that impact access to safe, quality care in all the communities they call home.

Appropriate oversight is an important part of ensuring safe, quality care for Minnesota's seniors. However, regulations can be smarter, decisions can be made more quickly, and confusing regulations can be made clearer.

### **LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT:**

#### Update the Assisted Living License

- Make technical corrections.
- Expand role of LPNs.
- Better define an assisted living resident.
- Pre-empt zoning restrictions prohibiting specific assisted living settings.

#### Explore New Ways to Serve Seniors

- Fund a study to set rates for PACE, which targets help for our most vulnerable seniors in community settings.
- Make a virtual model of adult day services a permanent option for providing care in the community.
- Allow out-of-state nurses to serve seniors in Minnesota.



### **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

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