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**LONG-TERM CARE IMPERATIVE REACTS TO INSUFFICIENT HHS BUDGET TARGET**

***More Needed for Aging Services to Support Seniors and their Caregivers***

Aging services providers are deeply disappointed in the insufficient health and human service budget target of $1.3 billion in FY 23-25.

We need $1 billion over the next four years to get our caregivers to a starting wage of $22 an hour. We know other caregivers in Human Services also have deep needs, so it is hard to see how this target will be enough.

Today’s announcement by elected leaders omits recognition of the largest constituency group in Minnesota; seniors and their caregivers should be outraged that the vision for “One Minnesota” does not include older adults.

To be clear, failure to address the crisis in long-term care will mean more nursing homes will close, fewer seniors will be served, and caregivers will continue to leave our sector.

Governor Walz and legislative leaders owe Minnesota seniors and their families an explanation of how a growing population of vulnerable seniors will receive care with a shrinking caregiving workforce.

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*The Long-Term Care Imperative (LTCI) is a partnership of Minnesota's two senior care provider associations –* [*Care Providers of Minnesota*](https://www.careproviders.org/) *and* [*LeadingAge Minnesota*](https://www.leadingagemn.org/)*. LTCI members employ 80,000 professional caregivers in Minnesota, meeting the needs of seniors in all the places seniors call home – including short-term care, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing homes.*