

March 5, 2021

Dear Minnesota Department of Health Assisted Living Staff:

Our organizations: the Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota and North Dakota, AARP, Legal Aid, and the Minnesota Elder Justice Center all work on behalf of long-term care consumers and families. We have been stakeholders in the Assisted Living licensing process for several years and are committed to improving the landmark 2019 Eldercare and Vulnerable Adult Protection Act that created Assisted Living licensure in our state.

HF1810 contains a number of technical changes to the 2019 Act. While we do not oppose any of these technical changes, the process used to achieve agreement was rushed and incomplete. It resulted in the omission of necessary technical changes and did not allow for full discussion of all issues raised by stakeholders.

This bill (and some additional technical language stakeholders agreed to) does not include critical substantive and clarifying changes that should be addressed now. Most importantly, we are concerned that some facilities may evade licensing and that some Minnesota residents living in publicly funded housing will be left with fewer protections than they have today.

We are committed to continue working with all stakeholders to find solutions to these critical problems before licensing begins in August 2021.

Sincerely,

Amanda Vickstrom
Minnesota Elder Justice Center

Mary Jo George
AARP

Beth McMullen
Alzheimer's Association of Minnesota and
North Dakota

Ron Elwood
Legal Services Advocacy Project

cc:

Representative Jennifer Schultz, Chair, House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee
Senator Karin Housley, Chair, Senate Aging and Long-Term Care Policy Committee