

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Long-Term Care Leaders Express Strong Disappointment in Gov. Walz's State of the State Address

Governor Walz uses the Federal Government to Distract from His State Cuts

Long-term care leaders are voicing profound disappointment that Gov. Walz failed to acknowledge or retract his proposed cuts to state Medicaid funding during his State of the State address on Wednesday. Gov. Walz missed a key opportunity to demonstrate leadership on some of the most pressing challenges facing seniors, families and caregivers across the state.

The Governor's insistence on pointing the finger at the federal government, while being unwilling to confront the suffering his own budget proposals would inflict on communities across Minnesota calls into question the sincerity of his concerns about federal Medicaid cuts – and flies in the face of his obligation to our state's oldest residents. Seniors and caregivers are facing a crisis of diminished access to long-term care – a crisis that demands additional state funding. Instead, Gov. Walz continues to push devastating cuts.

If state leaders are serious about supporting older adults, that commitment must be reflected in the state budget. We urge both Governor Walz and lawmakers to prioritize meaningful investments in long-term care that protect the well-being of our growing senior population.

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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.