

MOVING FORWARD, BRIDGING THE DIVIDE ON ELDER ABUSE



A veto of a supplemental budget bill that contained significant reforms to strengthen vulnerable adult protection brought what could best be described as a chaotic legislative session to a close.

We began the session with focused effort on prevention, accountability and transparency in senior living. Through your advocacy, we were able to secure measures to improve prevention efforts, create more transparency for families and caregivers, enhance rights for consumers and their families, and hold abusers more accountable under the law. In addition, the Legislature put into place a stakeholder process to produce proposals for the 2019 session that would license

assisted living, create an assisted living report card, and enhance standards for dementia care.

Despite the Governor's veto of these important reforms, we owe it to seniors and their families to rise above the end-of-session politics and proceed as though this bill was enacted.

The unprecedented growth in our state's senior population will impact all our communities and touch the lives of nearly every Minnesotan. We remain committed to working with all stakeholders to bring forward reforms in the 2019 session to ensure that all Minnesota seniors have the compassionate care and services they need.

ADULT DAY, HOME CARE AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

DWRS RATE CUT: Governor Dayton vetoed funding to restore a planned 7% cut to Disability Waiver Rates (DWRS) for adult day services and providers who serve people with disabilities. The 7% cut takes effect July 1. It does not affect Customized Living.

HOME CARE: Governor Dayton vetoed legislation that would have replaced references to service plan with service agreement; extended medication set-up for days away to 7 days; required \$1000 fine for temp agencies that fail to notify MDH when they begin serving clients; required MDH to survey temp agencies within 90 days of receiving notice; allowed employees in same or similar capacity under new owner to have no change in employment status; and allowed new owner to train employees on new policies within 90 days of change of ownership.

VETERANS HOMES: Provided \$32 million in bonding to construct 70-bed veterans nursing homes in Montevideo, Bemidji and Preston. The three communities will now pursue approval and funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which could take up to four years.

COMING SOON: 2018 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This update is an overview of the 2018 legislative session. A more detailed report will be distributed in July.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION: SHARING YOUR STORY AT THE CAPITOL

Your voices helped shape important legislation that will serve as the foundation for how we will design the path forward.

Thousands of dedicated aging services professionals shared stories of the quality, compassionate care they provide every day. Nearly 3000 messages were sent to lawmakers, hundreds of caregivers came to the Capitol, and many of them passionately shared their stories in committees. Because of your advocacy, lawmakers know that caring is our calling and that we support meaningful solutions that prevent maltreatment.

Although legislation to protect seniors did not pass this year, we remain committed



to working with all stakeholders to bring forward reforms in the 2019 session.

Our advocacy doesn't end with session; in fact, it's only just begun. Now is the perfect time to invite your lawmakers into your community.

Hosting lawmakers is an excellent way to share your story and influence the legislative process. Your elected officials want to be assured that you

provide quality care for their constituents.

Consider us your partner in hosting a successful visit. For more information, contact Libbie Chapuran at lchapuran@leadingagemn.org.

Thank you for your advocacy! We look forward to working together throughout the interim to show support for policies that prevent maltreatment and protect older adults.

Eldercare & Vulnerable Adult Protection Act of 2018

Governor Dayton vetoed legislation that helped prevent maltreatment, improve reporting and investigations, hold those responsible accountable, and increase transparency for families, caregivers and the public. We remain committed to protecting older adults, strengthening regulatory oversight and bringing forward reforms in the 2019 session to ensure that all Minnesota seniors have the compassionate care and services they need.

