



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**
Upper Midwest
Chapter

February 11, 2015

Dear members of the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee,

The National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upper Midwest chapter supports the CARE Act (HF 210/SF 107) which recognizes the critical role family caregivers play in keeping their loved ones out of costly institutional care.

For the thousands of Minnesotans living with multiple sclerosis (MS), caregivers play an important role in helping them to live independently in their own homes. Caregivers perform a variety of critical duties, such as feeding, bathing, toileting, transferring and potentially more complex nursing tasks. Given the important role of caregivers, we support the provisions in the CARE Act. These provisions include:

1. The name of the family caregiver is recorded when a loved one is admitted into a hospital;
2. The family caregiver is notified if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home; and,
3. The facility must provide an explanation and live instruction of the medical tasks that the family caregiver will perform at home.

Caregiver training and engagement is vital to improving the transition back home from a hospital. Once a patient leaves the hospital, family caregivers are the front line of defense against costly hospital readmissions. The National MS Society, Upper Midwest chapter believes it is very important to support family caregivers as they work to safely help their loved ones with MS live independently at home and as part of that, we support HF 210/SF 107, the CARE Act.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Endreson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Daniel Endreson
Public Policy Manager
National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Upper Midwest Chapter

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