



MINNESOTA **NETWORK** OF
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

May 10th, 2022

Chair Abeler, Chair Liebling, and members of the Health and Human Services Conference Committee,

Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care (MNHPC) strives to ensure that everyone has the help they need to live and die according to their wishes. We are the state association for hospice and palliative care providers and submit the following comments on behalf of our members.

1. **MNHPC supports language in the Senate and House omnibus bills modifying the definition of palliative care in state statute.** Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness or life-limiting condition. This type of care is focused on reducing the pain, symptoms, and stress of a serious illness or condition, and it is appropriate at any age and any stage in the illness trajectory. Patients can receive curative treatment while receiving palliative care. The proposed language clarifies the definition of palliative care for patients and providers.
2. **MNHPC supports funding for the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council.** The Palliative Care Advisory Council assesses access to palliative care across the state, analyzes barriers, and makes recommendations to the legislature. The council has produced five legislative reports since it was established in 2017. Funding will enable the council to continue raising awareness and advancing access to palliative care across Minnesota.
3. **MNHPC supports a feasibility study looking at the creation of a statewide registry for Provider Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) forms.** POLST forms are an important tool for patients to communicate their end-of-life preferences to their medical team. A registry will improve timely access to these forms and will make it easier for providers to honor their patients' wishes.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure that all Minnesotans have access to high quality serious illness and end-of-life care. We look forward to working with you to advance this important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jessica Hausauer".

Jessica Hausauer

Executive Director

Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care