LEAGUE of MINNESOTA CITIES

March 18, 2026

**Re: SF 4279 – Group assisted living facility policy reforms**

On behalf of our 842 member cities, the League of Minnesota Cities appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in support of SF 4279 (Hoffman). The bill includes several important provisions, including allowing cities to ensure reasonable property maintenance standards for group assisted living facilities, improving communication between state licensing agencies and local governments, strengthening reporting transparency in vulnerable adult investigations, and expanding on existing proximity considerations for certain licensed facilities.

SF 4279 restores the ability for cities to ensure reasonable property maintenance standards continue to apply to these facilities. Local inspections are an important tool for protecting residents by ensuring buildings remain safe and habitable and that issues related to building conditions, sanitation, and life safety are addressed in a timely manner. Cities are often the first point of contact when residents, neighbors, or first responders identify concerns and are typically able to respond more quickly than state agencies to address issues that may arise between periodic state inspections.

The bill also improves coordination by requiring licensing agencies to notify cities before a provisional license is issued and by requiring consideration of a facility's proximity to other licensed programs before issuing a license for assisted living facilities with six or fewer residents. Notification and proximity review support better coordination between state and local governments and help cities respond to community questions while carrying out local planning responsibilities.

Finally, the bill establishes a 650-foot proximity standard to help address the clustering of residential programs within a small geographic area. Reasonable spacing requirements help distribute supportive housing more evenly throughout communities and support the goal of integrating individuals with disabilities into residential neighborhoods, while still allowing flexibility through local approvals or a certificate of need process.

Together, these provisions strengthen the partnership between state agencies and local governments while ensuring that group assisted living facilities remain safe, well maintained, and integrated within communities.

Thank you for your consideration, and we respectfully urge members to support SF 4279.

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