The Long-Term Care IMPERATIVE

A Minnesota Collaboration for Changes in Older Adult Services

March 18, 2026

To: Senator Melissa Wiklund, Representative Bianca Virnig
CC: Members of the Senate & House Human Services Committees

RE: SF4418

Dear Sen. Wiklund and Rep. Virnig:

Thank you for the opportunity to share feedback on SF 4418, the MDH policy bill, and in particular, Article 3.

When this policy issue was last before the committee, the LTCI had serious concerns with the proposal and a confusing regulatory framework that implicitly established use of restraints in assisted living facilities while also prohibiting them.

We appreciated the opportunity to work with the Dept. of Health and advocates over the interim. Since last session, we have been able to work through many of our concerns:

- The language of the bill now specifies that training is not required for facilities that have a policy prohibiting the use restraints within their settings;
- The language of the bill now clarifies that use of restraints by others, including law enforcement or emergency personnel, are not the reporting responsibility of the facility; and
- The amendment today will align reporting obligations of emergency use of restraints to be consistent with existing reporting obligations in state law.

We hope to continue to work with MDH and others to resolve one outstanding matter: to ensure that residents who choose to use a device like a bed side rail can continue to do so without that use constituting a violation of a no-restraints policy within assisted living facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our feedback with you.

Respectfully,

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