March 16, 2026

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee,

We write in support of Senate File 4279. Congregate care facilities provide essential services and serve as home to many of the most vulnerable members of our communities. Ensuring the health and safety of residents, both in terms of the quality of care they receive and the conditions of the properties where they live, is critically important. While this proposal does not address every concern, it represents meaningful progress and includes several important measures that support the long-term success of congregate care settings, the wellbeing of residents, and the ability of communities to effectively support them.

This legislation reflects thoughtful engagement during the interim period among providers, legislators, state agency staff, the Office of the Ombudsman, and a coalition of cities working to strengthen collaboration around congregate care policy.

SF 4279 proposes improvements in four key areas of state law. First, it reforms aspects of the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center process. Second, it extends facility distancing requirements to cities of all sizes, promoting more consistent integration of congregate care settings across the state. Third, it requires notification to local jurisdictions when new provider licenses are issued. Finally, it supports a partnership between state agencies and cities to strengthen oversight and inspections to ensure congregate care facilities meet standard health and safety building codes.

Every Minnesotan deserves a safe and healthy place to live. As congregate care providers continue their person-centered mission, it is important that the state work in partnership with cities to promote positive outcomes and ensure Minnesota remains a place where inclusive communities can grow and thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.

April Graves
Mayor, Brooklyn Center

Hollies Winston
Mayor, Brooklyn Park

Julie Deshler
Mayor, Crystal

Ryan Sabas
Mayor, Champlin

Jerry Koch
Mayor, Coon Rapids

Dave Ostwald
Mayor, Fridley

Roslyn Harmon
Mayor, Golden Valley

Mark Steffenson
Mayor, Maple Grove

John Elder
Mayor, New Hope

Brad Sutton
Mayor, Robbinsdale