CITY OF
BLOOMINGTON
MINNESOTA

Date: March 18, 2026

To: Senate Human Services Committee

From: Zach Walker, City Manager, City of Bloomington

Regarding: Support of SF4279 on state-licensed congregate care facilities

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Chair Hoffman:

We are writing in support of SF4279 on state-licensed congregate care facilities. Congregate care facilities provide valuable services and a place to call home for many of our most vulnerable in the community. In Bloomington there are 204 state-licensed houses (total bed capacity of 807) serving six or fewer residents per location.

Ensuring the health and safety of residents, both in terms of the property itself and the care they are provided, is of utmost importance. While this bill does not achieve all our goals, the proposed bill provides critical measures to support the long-term success of congregate care facilities, the wellbeing of their residents, and our communities' ability to best support all residents.

We are glad to see that this proposal was informed by meaningful engagement among partners on all sides of this discussion during the interim period. No policy can be successful without connecting with those who will be impacted by potential changes.

SF4279 would address four key areas of state statute:
(1) Offer reforms to the Minnesota Adult Abuse Reporting Center (MAARC) process;
(2) Extend facility distancing requirements to cities of all sizes to ensure integration throughout the state;
(3) Require notification to local jurisdictions upon issuance of new provider licenses; and (4) Facilitate an oversight and inspections partnership between State agencies and cities to ensure congregate care facilities meet standard health and safety building codes.

Every Minnesotan deserves a safe and healthy home. As congregate care facilities continue their person-centered mission, it is imperative that the State partners in meaningful ways with cities to promote healthy outcomes for all and ensure Minnesota is home to inclusive communities where residents thrive.

Thank you for your consideration.