



March 20, 2020

Governor Tim Walz
MN State Capitol
75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd #130
St. Paul MN 55155

Governor Walz:

On behalf of the members of the Care Providers of Minnesota, LeadingAge Minnesota and Service Employees International Union, we are writing to request your assistance to support redeployment of furloughed and/or laid off health care workers to fill critical workforce openings in long-term care settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate your work thus far to keep Minnesotans safe, healthy, and cared for during this turbulent time.

Older adults residing in long term care communities are at the highest risk, and yet we are experiencing an acute and rapidly growing workforce crisis. We have identified a new workforce source that may be able to provide expedited relief, with your directive. Because of your recent Emergency Executive Order 20-09 Directing Delay of Inpatient and Outpatient Elective Surgery and Procedural Cases and because of independent provider policies, much of the non-COVID related parts of the hospital and other healthcare systems are downsizing. As a result, many workers have been furloughed or put on leave. Many of these workers have already had the training we need and have completed many, if not all, of the DHS regulatory checks needed to start working in a long term care organization. We are appreciative of the Executive Orders 20-11 and 20-12 granting additional flexibility to DHS, but it is unclear whether these orders will provide the regulatory flexibility needed to redeploy these health care workers.

Please review the attached document outlining our request for the expedited redeployment of healthcare workers to support the needs in long term care. This would allow us access to necessary workforce during this crisis, provide work for people who need jobs, and allow the state and providers to stretch their emergency COVID resources further.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions or concerns. We are happy to provide additional detail and clarity of these requests in an effort to protect our most vulnerable population.

Sincerely,

Gayle Kvenvold
President/CEO
LeadingAge Minnesota

Patti Cullen, CAE
President/CEO
Care Providers of Minnesota

Jamie Gulley
President
Service Employees International Union