



MINNESOTA NETWORK OF
HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

August 24th, 2021

Minnesota Frontline Worker Pay Working Group Members,

Thank you for your work to make recommendations to the legislature regarding the allocation of \$250 million in frontline worker pay. We write on behalf of Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care with considerations specific to the hospice and palliative care workforce.

We request that the frontline hospice and palliative care workforce be included and explicitly named in recommendations to the legislature regarding frontline worker pay. Hospice and palliative care providers serve patients and families across care settings, including but not limited to the hospital, skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, residential hospice houses, and residential homes. Hospice workers move back and forth between the home and facility settings, and from one home or facility to another. To ensure clarity, it is important to clearly name this workforce in COVID-19 recommendations and guidance. Previous guidance did not clearly identify hospice and palliative care, leading to delays in access to resources for this critical workforce.

The nature of hospice and palliative care work puts staff at increased risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 due to variations in care setting protocols and community spread. Hospice staff diligently follow the wide range of protocols required to access their patients in facilities and homes and are persistent in the face of barriers and additional costs related to PPE, testing, and quarantine.

Hospice and palliative care frontline staff care for COVID-19 positive patients and their families at life's most vulnerable times. They show up every day to ease the suffering of patients and families throughout the pandemic and continue to care for bereaved family members long after their loved ones death. It is important that our state honor the work of this dedicated, compassionate, and underrecognized workforce.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jessica Hausauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jessica Hausauer, PhD
Executive Director
Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care
www.mnhpc.org