



Increase Funding for OOLTC Staffing

HF 2751, SF 2796

Elder Voice Advocates requests that the funding be increased for the Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care to add 17 staff members. Their work is imperative to meeting the care needs of elders and other vulnerable adults living in MN long-term care residences throughout Minnesota. The funding of only 4 new positions is inadequate to meet the needs of approximately 60,000 residents in nursing homes and assisted living.

The current care crisis in long-term care residences necessitates more resources are needed to help the providers meet the needs of the residents. Our seniors are suffering from significant abuse and neglect that is resulting in needless suffering and even death. Seniors need more resources, not fewer.

The OOLTC is our first line of defense and help. Their intervention can help providers improve their care and safety practices. Without this safety net, this vulnerable population is left with few options to keep them safe and well cared for.

They are currently at a staff to resident ratio of 1/4700 resident, while the national average is 1/2000. They are required to make non-compliant visits to all long-term care residences but are not able to get to 30% of the nursing homes and 48% of assisted living residences.

We ask that you support the human right for all seniors in Minnesota to have the supports needed to assure quality and safe care in all Minnesota long-term care residences. The OOLTC is critically important.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Kristine Sundberg, Executive Director
Elder Voice Advocates