

From: Madeline McLean <madeline.mclean@senate.mn>
Date: March 18, 2020 at 10:18:28 AM CDT
To: Bruce Emmel <bemmel@homeatheartcare.com>
Subject: RE: Clearbrook Minnesota's largest employer

Good morning Bruce,

My name is Maddie and I am Senator Utke's legislative assistant. Thank you for taking the time to reach out to Senator Utke with regards to SF 4200 and on behalf of Home at Heart Care.

These are very challenging times for many Minnesotans and I understand that service providers are facing unique challenges with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic. The legislature will continue monitoring the unfolding situation so that we can respond to the needs of Minnesotans in an appropriate and timely manner. SF 4200 was heard on March 16 in the Senate Human Services Reform committee and is currently in the Senate Finance committee. I will keep you updated if anything changes.

I encourage you to refer to the Department of Human Services webpage on the COVID-19 pandemic (<https://mn.gov/dhs/covid-19/>) or the Minnesota State Emergency Operations Center Hotline 1-800-657-3504. Department of Human Services staff are available to answer calls from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Sincerely,

Maddie McLean
Legislative Assistant I Senator Utke
madeline.mclean@senate.mn
651-296-4196

From: Bruce Emmel <bemmel@homeatheartcare.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Sen. Paul Utke <sen.paul.utke@senate.mn>
Subject: Clearbrook Minnesota's largest employer

Dear Senator Utke,

From this small town, Home at Heart Care is employing over 350 people in Northern Minnesota who provide Home and Community based services to approximately 500 recipients from the Canadian Border to Detroit Lakes, Cass Lake to East Grand Forks. Yet it seems that we are largely ignored by our legislatures as was the case in tabling Senate File 4200.

I know that you have worked hard to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19/coronavirus on Minnesotans statewide, and I appreciate the measures put in place thus far for other health care providers.

However, the depth of this crisis greatly impacts individuals with disabilities, their family members, and caregivers - who are at even higher risk due to underlying health conditions, low income, and food/housing insecurity.

This also comes at a time when our current network of disability supports is at the brink of collapse due to the widespread workforce shortage. Providers need flexibility to support individuals in new and different ways immediately to preserve access to services and avoid unnecessary hospitalization.

That's why I URGE you to reconvene at the Capitol IMMEDIATELY to pass Senate File 4200, which creates more flexibility in our service systems so individuals with disabilities can stay healthy at home.

It allows the Commissioner of Human Services to temporarily waive or modify regulatory, administrative, and program requirements to preserve access to crucial services during this peacetime emergency such as the ones I've already taken in the attached letter at my company's expense. It also outlines checks and balances needed for strong legislative oversight, as well as some important consumer protections.

Please return to the Capitol NOW to pass S.F. 4200. Your action is more critical now than ever as this crisis deepens with each passing day, and is vital for the health and stability of Minnesota's disability community.

Bruce Emmel

President, CEO

Home at Heart Care Inc.



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