

Good Morning Members of the House Human Services Committee:

My name is Kiara Tuchscherer and I am the Administrator for the Good Samaritan Society in Fargo, ND. We are one of five basic care facilities in a 5 mile radius and we are a 55 and older one-level facility that offers Basic Care and Assisted Living services with 72 apartment. We currently are serving 4 AL and 68 basic care residents.

Basic care is important in North Dakota and is a growing demand as it offers seniors who cannot live independently services to help them age in place while encouraging their independence before they would need 24 hour medical care. 51 of my residents have been with us for more than 3+ years and I have one resident who has been with us from the beginning, 15 years. I have had positive stories where residents have utilized our services to gain even more of their independence back and have been able to move out and live on their own. This shows how Basic Care is truly making a difference. I am speaking today to support Senate Bill Number Twenty Two Eighty Three for increasing rates and limits for inflation in Basic Care facilities. Today, Basic Care is losing close to \$8+ a day per resident. On average for my facility alone, that is equaling \$177,408 a year.

With the COVID-19 pandemic forcing changes and causing inflation, I think now, more than ever, is the time to act to create positive change. With my 54 employees who all play an important role in our facility offering 24/7 service, activities, 3 meals/3 snacks per day, laundry, housekeeping, and maintenance, we need to focus on what the State can do to help. As the Basic Care Director at Large for the ND Long Term Care Association, I am hearing other Basic Care facilities in agreement that there must be a increase in rates or we will not be able to continue serving these residents. Please agree to help Basic Care facilities with our income so facilities like mine can continue to provide quality care. Some facilities have already closed their doors; I am afraid if our rates continue to not be sufficient to cover costs and we continue to lose hundreds of dollars a day; we will not be able to afford serving these residents and will need to close our doors too.

Thank you