



February 7, 2017

Sen. Karin Housley  
3217 Senate Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Housley,

**The Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare** is a diverse coalition of doctors, nurses, advocates for persons with disabilities, medical ethicists, elder-care workers, faith-based organizations, and others opposed to the legalization of assisted suicide and committed to promoting alternative policies that ensure quality care throughout life's journey.

We believe that palliative care extends real care. Therefore, the Minnesota Alliance for Ethical Healthcare strongly supports measures to improve palliative care in Minnesota, especially to extend real care to individuals facing curable, chronic, or life-threatening diagnoses. Palliative care extends real care to suffering individuals by addressing health conditions with medical excellence. Such care is possible when quality palliative options are available.

**As a coalition, we strongly support SF 112  
to establish a Palliative Care Advisory Committee in Minnesota**

Palliative care is patient-centered and family-focused medical care that optimizes quality of life by anticipating, preventing, and treating suffering caused by serious illness. It is a team approach to care that is highly supportive, can be extended alongside of curative treatment and is intended to alleviate suffering for individuals of any age and any stage.

Yet, individuals and caregivers facing serious illnesses are often unaware of new medical advances, available support systems and cost-saving options accessible via palliative care. Research indicates that 92% of patients and caregivers desire the kind of integrated support palliative care provides once they understand it.<sup>1</sup> The advisory committee would help lawmakers identify gaps in health systems and workforce development. Ultimately, their work with legislators would extend quality palliative care options to more Minnesotans.

In fact, a recent nationwide study by the Center to Advance Palliative Care recommended that states create advisory boards like the one proposed in SF 112. This legislation is an important step forward in improving care for Minnesotans. Thank you for authoring it and for your service to all Minnesotans.

(Alliance members listed on back)

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<sup>1</sup> According to consumer research commissioned collaboratively by the American Cancer Society, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, and the Center to Advance Palliative Care.



# Alliance Partners

*The following organizations stand together to promote real care for all Minnesotans:*

- American Academy of Medical Ethics
- American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
- Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
- Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)
- Benedictine Health System
- Catholic Health Association of Minnesota
- Center for Bioethics and Culture
- Christian Medical and Dental Association
- Curatio Apostolate of Catholic Healthcare Professionals
- Democrats for Life
- Diocese of Winona Guild of the Catholic Medical Association (Rochester)
- Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
- Gianna Homes
- Human Life Alliance
- Islamic Center of Minnesota
- Knights of Columbus Minnesota State Council
- Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Minnesota North District
- Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, Minnesota South District
- Lutherans for Life
- Minnesota Catholic Conference
- Minnesota Family Council
- Minnesota Rural Health Association
- Muslim American Society
- National Council on Independent Living
- North Star Law & Policy Center
- Not Dead Yet
- Order of Malta
- Patients Rights Action Fund
- Prenatal Partners for Life
- Pro-life Healthcare Alliance
- Saint Paul and Minneapolis Guild of the Catholic Medical Association
- St. Raphael Guild of the Catholic Medical Association (Duluth)
- Students for Life
- Sacred Heart Mercy Health Care Center (Jackson)
- The Arc Minnesota
- The Lutheran Home Association
- University of Saint Thomas ProLife Center

Learn more at [EthicalCareMN.org](http://EthicalCareMN.org)

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