

To subcommittee members for SF 255,

I have worked in long term care since 2010 and have been a volunteer long before that. The overarching theme the Medicaid residents discuss is the need for higher personal needs allowance (PNA). Many facilities do not have private phones in resident rooms and if a resident wanted their own cell phone even the most basic phone and data card is half their monthly PNA allowing little to accumulate for things like new clothes, shoes, replacing a broken TV or wanting an electric recliner.

At Northern Mahaska we have an average daily census of 76 residents, 58 of which rely on Medicaid for their payer. An additional \$25 per month raising the PNA to \$75 would drastically improve the quality of life for the majority of these residents allowing them more autonomy with their money in being able to purchase things the facility does not provide.

Per 249A.30A the Medical Assistance Personal Needs Allowance has not received an increase dollar amount since May 22, 2006. Per an inflation calculator from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, \$50 in 2006 is now equivalent to \$77.99 in 2024.

In closing, when the subcommittee meets to review Senate File 255 please strongly consider advocating for this change in the PNA for our seniors and others affected.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kaitlyn Lewis".

Kaitlyn Lewis
Administrator
Northern Mahaska Specialty Care