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TO: Frontline Worker Pay Working Group
RE: Written Testimony – Frontline Worker Considerations
DATE: July 27, 2021

Members of the Frontline Worker Pay Working Group,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Frontline Worker Pay Program. As a direct service provider, our organization has seen firsthand the challenges that COVID-19 created for continuing services while maintaining the safety of our clients and staff. We thank the legislature and Walz administration for dedicating funds to recognize the hardship placed upon frontline workers like many of our staff. While some of our work was able to move to remote services, we have a number of service lines where staff continued to show up in person, because it was the best and only way to continue to serve our clients. As you determine eligibility for this program we ask that you include the following types of workers:

- Providers of customized living services;
- Early childhood educators and other childcare professionals including support staff such as cooks;
- Mental and chemical health providers whose work could not occur remotely; and
- Professionals who provided transportation to connect clients with services
- In classroom and other in-person school based mental health professionals
- Housing navigators and other housing support and stability professionals
- Administrative staff supporting client intake, walk-ins and other support functions to ensure service delivery

Seeing every day the lengths that our staff and partners went to in order to continue serving our clients and community, we urge you to include the job types above in your final recommendation for eligibility. We would welcome future opportunities to speak further on behalf of the direct in-person services our staff has conducted since the beginning of the pandemic. Also, we would be willing to share our experiences as an employer who has made an effort to provide hazard pay to our employees in

recognition of the added difficulty of their work, and to ensure that staff shortages did not create difficulties in accessing services for our clients.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nona Ferguson".

Nona Ferguson
VP Economic Stability
and Aging Services

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pahoua K. Yang".

Pahoua K. Yang
VP Community Mental
Health and Wellness