Dear Senator XX/ Representative XXX

I'm reaching out for your assistance in making sure both assisted living and adult day programs see some of the emergency funding from 2965. We need the help of the legislature to advocate to OFM to include these settings in the relief funding.

 Assisted living is an essential healthcare provider that offers housing, supportive, and nursing care to older adults. Assisted living facilities are seeing many of the same increased costs for PPE, cleaning supplies, and staffing that skilled nursing facilities and even hospitals are experiencing. They also experience a revenue shortage as occupancy decreases as we implement containment and prevention measures. It is equally important that licensed only communities (no Medicaid contract) also see some funding relief along with Medicaid providers. This is a public health matter that should be blind to payer types served; these are essential health care providers that are responding to COVID and protecting our state's elderly; our most vulnerable individuals served in a congregate housing setting.

With the number of assisted living facilities with an active COVID-19 case increasing every day, any delay in these emergency funds being distributed in the quickest, most fair and equitable way will result in these providers scrambling to meet the needs of their residents. The goal should be for these providers to continue to be able to provide the amazing care they give to their residents with the least amount of disruption.

Along with that, this funding must be made available regardless of whether the health care provider serves a Medicaid population or not.

Additionally, most adult day programs have had to close their doors in order to protect the health and safety of their clients. This means that they are trying to maintain their business while not receiving any revenue.

They are trying to continue payroll so that they don't lose valuable staff. Many of them have also done great work to prepare their facilities for clients to return. This includes deep cleaning of the entire facility in order to ensure that they are not furthering the problem. This is a substantial cost, and some of these providers are small businesses that are providing a valuable and necessary service to the aging population of Washington. Without access to emergency funding, these centers run the risk of not opening again.

Please make sure both assisted living and adult day programs are included in the funding implementation from HB 2965. They are a vital part of the long term care continuing and need to be accounted for in the emergency relief.

Although not in HB 2965, we are also urging the additional relief from the increased Federal Medical Assistance Percentages (FMAP) be allocated to providers as soon as possible. The increase to the FMAP was a provision in the recently passed CARES Act. CMS has given approval for Home and Community Based Services to receive this increase and we are urging the state to take immediate steps to distribute these much-needed funds as quickly as possible. Many other states have already implemented rate increases to providers. Our state needs to act now!