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August 12, 2020

Eleni Papadakis
Executive Director
Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

Dear Ms. Papadakis,

Thank you for the unique opportunity to help drive the development of education and training pathways that are specifically aimed to meet our critical workforce needs. I am pleased to commit the participation of LeadingAge Washington in this important grant program.

LeadingAge Washington represents the interests of not-for-profit and mission-driven organizations dedicated to improving the aging experience of over 50,000 older Washingtonians and their family members, whether in need of safe and affordable housing or healthcare offered in both community and licensed residential settings. On behalf of our member organizations, we advocate for needed funding to support caring and housing for low-income seniors and we advocate for sound policy that promotes a healthy and balanced care environment always with a constant eye towards quality improvement.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the increased need of a trained workforce have highlighted what the long-term care sector has already known; we are facing a significant and lasting nursing shortage. The LPN position is vital in long term care to help provide for the care and needs of Washington's most vulnerable population.

The education, training, and career pathways programs outlined in this grant application are particularly important in growing a much-needed workforce with competencies in elder care. To support the programs' success, we commit to providing appropriate staff and resources to assist dislocated workers to access the healthcare career pathways developed for the RWP grant. This support includes:

- Member communities ready to provide training sites and opportunities
- Free membership to all Washington State students, including access to professional forums and mentoring from leadership
- LeadingAge WA clinical staff support

As this is a competitive grant application process, we look forward to providing any needed additional information and otherwise hope this is positively received. If any further information is needed from LeadingAge Washington, please contact me or Laura Hofmann at 253-964-8870.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deb Murphy".

Deb Murphy, MPA, J.D.
President/Chief Executive Officer
LeadingAge Washington