



STATE OF WASHINGTON

February 14, 2019

The Honorable Pat McCarthy
Washington State Auditor
P.O. Box 40021
Olympia, WA 98504-0021

Dear Auditor McCarthy:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the State Auditor's Office performance audit report, "Assessing Extended Family Exemptions for Individual Providers." The Office of Financial Management worked with the Department of Health and the Department of Social and Health Services to provide this response.

We appreciate your team looking into the extent of unmet need for individual providers for some of our state's most vulnerable people and recognize the challenges in quantifying the growing need for long-term care.

We add that the state covers the costs of 75 hours of training, including wages while completing training, testing and certification for those extended family members who are required to take these hours. The report points out that administrative costs may increase if exemptions were allowed for extended family members. However, due to these other costs borne by the state, the overall costs may decrease or remain the same.

Expanding exemptions would allow more Washingtonians to stay in their homes and enable extended family members to care for their loved ones. This would be beneficial and have a positive impact.

We will continue to work together and with stakeholders to address the need for qualified individual providers.

Sincerely,

David Schumacher
Director
Office of Financial Management

Cheryl Strange
Secretary
Department of Social and Health Services

John Wiesman
Secretary
Department of Health

cc: David Postman, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
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