Urgent Concern: Loss of 110 Units of Affordable Senior Housing at Norse Home

Dear ,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the elimination of 110 units of affordable senior housing at the Norse Home, a long-established facility that provided both independent and assisted living for Seattle seniors for nearly 68 years.

At a time when affordable senior housing is widely acknowledged as a crisis throughout Seattle and the greater Puget Sound region, it is deeply troubling that such a loss has been permitted—particularly at a property that historically served seniors of modest means, including residents who transitioned to Medicaid when their personal resources were exhausted.

In September 2024—just three years after signing an *affiliation agreement* with the Norse Home Board—Transforming Age, a nonprofit retirement housing organization, announced that the Norse Home would be closed for what was described as "renovation." All 86 residents were required to move out by June 30, 2025.

Among these residents were individuals in their 90s and over 100 years old. Thirty required assisted living services, and ten relied on Medicaid. Finding comparable housing—particularly for Medicaid residents—was extremely difficult, if not impossible. The displacement was devastating for residents and their families, many of whom had been repeatedly assured that Norse Home would always remain available to them, even after they had spent down their resources.

Within weeks of the closure announcement, the true nature of the "renovation" became clear. A site plan filed with the City of Seattle revealed plans to repurpose the Norse Home into 32 luxury independent-senior apartments, reportedly requiring buy-ins ranging from $500,000 to $1,000,000.

This raises serious and troubling questions:

- How did the loss of 110 affordable senior housing units become permissible?
- How does replacing assisted and Medicaid-accessible housing with luxury units serve Seattle's stated housing and equity goals?

- How is this outcome consistent with the public interest or the nonprofit mission under which the Norse Home operated for decades?

The Norse Home was not merely a building—it was a community asset, built and sustained by generations of residents in Ballard, Greenwood, and Phinney Ridge. Its quiet closure and repurposing represent a profound loss to Seattle's senior housing ecosystem.

I respectfully urge you to review this matter immediately, to examine how this displacement was allowed to occur, and to explore all available options to return the Norse Home to its original purpose as affordable, inclusive senior housing.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,