



MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

May 3, 2023

Honorable Rep. Frank Hornstein
Honorable Rep. Brad Tabke
Honorable Rep. John Petersburg
Honorable Rep. Erin Koegel
Honorable Rep. Jeff Brand

Honorable Senator D. Scott Dibble
Honorable Senator Kelly L. Morrison
Honorable Senator Jim Carlson
Honorable Senator Jennifer McEwen
Honorable Senator John Jasinski

RE: Support Senior Meals through Delivery Fee

Dear Members of the Transportation Omnibus Conference Committee:

The Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging and our partners in the statewide Senior Meals and Services Coalition urge you to adopt the House position on the Delivery Fee provision. We are encouraged that this provision would provide one percent of fees collected to support meal delivery for low-income and frail older adults.

Currently, there is a significant shortage of funds for home-delivered meals for seniors. In 2022 more than 800 people were placed on wait lists. Those wait lists will grow as the older population continues to expand at an unprecedented rate. One in ten older adults in our state lives at or below the poverty level and their use of food shelves is high. In 2022, Minnesota seniors made 700,000 visits to food shelves, up more than 38% over the prior year.

Providing sustainable funding for home meal delivery will help to address senior hunger present in our state. Home-delivered meals are a foundational service to help seniors stay at home for as long as possible. It is vitally important that this core service is available at sufficient service levels for all seniors in need.

We ask you to pass the Transportation Omnibus bill with the Delivery Fee provision included.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jason W. Swanson'.

Jason W. Swanson, President, MN Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Co-chair, Senior Meals and Services Coalition
Executive Director, Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging

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Dawn Simonson, Co-chair, Senior Meals and Services Coalition
President and CEO, Trellis (Area Agency on Aging for the Metro Region)

Cc: Kristi Kane, Executive Director, Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging
Lori Vrolson, Executive Director, Central MN Area Agency on Aging
Heather Pender, Director, Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging
Laurie Brownell, Executive Director, Southeastern MN Area Agency on Aging
Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access