



**AARP Testimony on Paid Family Leave  
House of Representatives  
Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee  
February 13, 2025**

Chairman Baker and Committee Members,

AARP strongly opposes delaying the implementation of the Paid Family Leave Program. We have repeatedly called on lawmakers to support family caregivers, who are the backbone of our long-term care system and play a critical role in caring for their loved ones and delaying expensive nursing home care. The economic contribution of Minnesota's 740,000 family caregivers is estimated to be \$10 billion.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the clear financial contributions of caregivers, their emotionally, physically, and financially strenuous work is not recognized with pay when they need to take time off work to care for loved ones. Implementation of a timely paid leave program will address these concerns. Moreover, paid leave can provide significant benefits to employees and society, such as allowing older Minnesotans to age in place, improving the retention of women's participation in the workforce, and benefiting businesses by reducing turnover, boosting productivity, and enhancing morale.

Delaying its implementation would mean that many family caregivers will miss out on these critical benefits. After many years of working on this important legislation, Minnesota family caregivers expect its timely implementation in January 2026. We also believe the Department of Employment and Economic Development has done the critical work to implement this program. We respectfully ask you to vote no on H.F. 11.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Thomas Elness  
State Advocacy Director  
AARP Minnesota

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<sup>1</sup> AARP Public Policy Institute, "Number of Family Caregivers, Hours, and Economic Value of Caregiving, by State, 2021"