



MN Leadership Council on Aging

February 18, 2023

Dear Senator Morrison and Representative Her,

On behalf of the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, I write to thank you for bringing forward SF1640/HF1596. The mission of the Leadership Council members is to create communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota. To that end, **we believe that the time is now for Minnesota to take the next steps to fully implement the Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)** as a proven model of care for delivering services to frail older adults.

Our coalition of leading organizations are hopeful that Minnesota can join the 30+ states that currently have PACE programs. PACE is as an innovative model enabling individuals age 55+ needing a nursing home level of care to live at home or as independently as possible. The PACE philosophy is centered on the belief that it is better for frail individuals and their families to be served in the community whenever possible. Although all PACE participants are eligible for nursing home care, 95 percent continue to live at home. PACE programs coordinate and provide all needed preventive, primary, acute, and long-term care services so older individuals can continue living in the community. Through PACE, today's fragmented health care financing and delivery systems come together to serve the unique needs of people in a way that makes sense to our older adults, their caregivers, health care providers and policymakers.

Research has also shown that PACE saves taxpayer dollars through a lower-cost model of care that has proven effective at preventing hospitalizations and rehospitalizations and helps to support and improve family caregiving.

As Minnesota is now home to one million seniors, we ask your support for PACE and other innovative models that support older adults and caregivers in our communities. Again, we thank you for your leadership to fully implement PACE in our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala
Executive Director
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging is a champion, thought leader, planner, and educator that advances positive system change for older adults, their families and caregivers. The organization is focused on creating communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota.

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