



# MN Leadership Council on Aging

March 7, 2023

The Honorable Tina Liebling  
Chair, Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy Committee  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Liebling,

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, **I write today in full support of HF 1940 (Bierman) to continue the work of the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council and a related study.**

As trusted organizations across the state's aging sector, our shared mission is to create communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota. One of our longstanding values as a Leadership Council is to ensure basic human needs. *What can be more fundamental in meeting our societal obligation than ensuring the best quality of life for people facing serious illness.*

We support this legislation and our coalition represents a part of the broad community support that exists to continue and fund the good work underway by the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council as well as engage DHS in a study on the impacts of a palliative care benefit for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees.

On behalf of our members and the one million older Minnesotans we work with who call our state home, we ask for your support today on HF1940.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging Delegates

*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. We are focused on creating communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota.*

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## Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Delegates supporting the Palliative Care Advisory Council and Study legislation:

Cathy McLeer, *State Director*  
**AARP Minnesota**

Susan Parriott, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Alzheimer's Association MN/ND**

Nona Ferguson, *Vice President, Economic Stability and Aging Services*  
**Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**

Patti Cullen, *President and CEO*  
**Care Providers of Minnesota**

Ann Bailey, *President*  
**DARTS**

Beth Wiggins, *Director of Caregiving and Aging Services*, **FamilyMeans**

James Falvey, *Executive Director*  
**Friends & Co.**

Jonathan Palmer, *Executive Director*  
**Hallie Q. Brown Community Center**

Ruth Hampton Olkon, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Jewish Family Services of St. Paul**

Mary McKeown, *President and CEO*  
**Keystone Community Services**

Kari Thurlow, *President and CEO*  
**LeadingAge Minnesota**

Carol Lundquist, *Executive Director*  
**Living at Home Network**

Roxanne Jenkins, *Associate Vice President for Services for Older Adults*  
**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**

Jarrold Peterson, *Public Policy Chair/President*  
**Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association and St. Paul Senior Workers Association**

Dawn Simonson, *President and CEO*, **Trellis Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

Heidi Holste, *Executive Director*, **Minnesota Association of Geriatrics Inspired Clinicians**

Amanda Vickstrom, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Elder Justice Center**

Tom Hyder, *Interim Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Gerontological Society**

Kathy Messerli, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Home Care Association**

Jessica Hausauer, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care**

Phil Duran, *Senior Advocate, Aging and Gender Care Access*, **Rainbow Health**

Deb Taylor, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Senior Community Services**

Jane Pederson, *Chief Medical Quality Officer*  
**Stratis Health**

Joseph Gaugler, *Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in LTC and Aging*, **University of Minnesota**

Kate Grathwol, *President and CEO*  
**Vision Loss Resources**

Julie Manworren, *President and CEO*  
**Volunteers of America – MN/WI**

