



Minnesota Board on Aging
PO Box 64976
St. Paul, MN 55164-0976

May 2, 2023

Dear Human Services Conferees:

On behalf of the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA), I am writing to request your support of specific policy provisions and appropriations the MBA has endorsed during this current legislative session. Specifically, the MBA has prioritized the following needs and recommendation on behalf of older adults in Minnesota:

- **Native American Elders Coordinator (House language and appropriations):** The legislation for this position was enacted in 1995 without the appropriation needed to execute and fulfill the intended scope of the position. It has become even more critical for the MBA to have an elevated and independent position representing the board when engaging with Tribal leadership to adequately address the unique needs of Native American elders throughout Minnesota.
- **The Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care (Senate appropriations):** The OOLTC program provides vital support to residents of assisted living and skilled nursing facilities and their families, and this appropriation would address service gaps by allowing the OOLTC to hire an additional 17 FTEs.
- **Vulnerable Adult Act Redesign, Phase 2:** This statewide system redesign requires ongoing funding to effectively implement an expansion of adult protective services by both counties and Tribal Nations. We urge the Committee to consider the MBA's recommendation to instead **provide ongoing funding**. This will ensure the long-term changes needed to address disparities and improve outcomes for our most vulnerable adults statewide are fully implemented and sustainable.
- **Age-Friendly MN Council (House language and appropriations):** The work of the Age-Friendly MN Council is vital to addressing the needs of a growing population of older adults in MN. The MBA supports both the continued funding provided in the House's recommendation and the permanent establishment of the Council.

As Minnesota's State Unit on Aging, the MBA promotes policies to the state legislature, the Governor and state agencies that accurately reflect the needs and interests of older Minnesotans. The MBA also advises on and coordinates government plans around aging to ensure that federal Older American's Act requirements are met, while also working to create a collective vision that represents the best interests of older Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maureen Schneider'.

Maureen Schneider
Interim Chair, Minnesota Board on Aging

Equal Opportunity Employer