



April 29, 2020

RE: Support for the A-2/HF 3074

Dear Chair Moran and Chair Schultz,

Thank you to the members of the Minnesota House of Representatives for the work you are doing to help Minnesota during these difficult and unprecedented times.

The Minnesota Association of Agencies on Aging (m4a) supports the A-2 amendment to HF 3104/HF 3074 and thanks you for your efforts to assist family caregivers of older vulnerable Minnesotans.

The Area Agencies on Aging provide Federal Older Americans Act grants to organizations across the state who work daily with family caregivers caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. Often, the specific resource needs are not accessible to them in their community or the care recipient would be more at ease receiving support from someone who is familiar to them. The amendment makes a small policy change to an existing grant program to ensure grants are distributed to caregivers of vulnerable older Minnesotans, including those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. By working with the Area Agencies on Aging, the Board on Aging will be able to dispense grants previously appropriated in the 2017 special session, Health and Human Services Omnibus Budget bill, to family caregivers more directly, effectively, and efficiently because they have established relationships with county case managers, Caregiver Consultants, and other Community Living Specialists already working with family caregivers.

Family caregivers are essential to ensuring older Minnesotans get the support and care they need to remain independent and connected with their own community. We look forward to working with the Minnesota Senate to support family caregivers of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia and all older Minnesotans in future legislative sessions.

With deep appreciation,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Vrolson".

Lori Vrolson
Chair of the MN Association of Area Agencies on Aging