



**TO:** Health and Human Services Omnibus Conferees:  
Senators Benson, Abeler, Utke, Koran and Hoffman;  
Representatives Liebling, Schultz, Gomez, Pinto and Shomacker

**FROM:** Adam Suomala, Executive Director, Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

**SUBJECT:** Support for the Council for an Age-Friendly Minnesota in HF 2128 (Article 14, Section 41)

**DATE:** May 5, 2021

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**I write today to urge unanimous support from all conferees to adopt the Article 14, Section 41 provision of HF 2128, authorizing the Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota to continue through October 2020.**

I want to stress the unprecedented level of stakeholder support of Minnesota's leaders spanning the aging sector for this provision, including our 43 members strong, leadership of the Minnesota Board on Aging, the Minnesota Diverse Elders Coalition, the Finish Strong Funders Network, and countless communities.

This small policy extension would carry forward the existing Council until October 2022, allowing the state to maintain important momentum until a new Council can be established in the next Legislative Session. This language would maintain current efforts to focus and coordinate the work of state agencies, local governments, communities, and the private sector with the goal of building an Age-Friendly state.

This represents an easy provision to adopt, given the state's shifting demographics, the disproportionate and devastating impacts of COVID-19 on our older adults, the bi-partisan support for aging as a state priority, and the powerful results seen by pioneering cities and counties who were able to respond better to the needs of their communities after embarking on their age-friendly journeys.

We are here to support you in this request. As the largest stakeholder community in the field of aging, we remain hopeful to see that aging can be a strategic priority for our state. My appreciation for your work to champion this provision – and the benefit it represents to every Minnesota community in the years ahead.

I can be reached at any time with questions at 651-271-3116 or [adam@mnlcoa.org](mailto:adam@mnlcoa.org).