



March 9, 2023

To: Members of the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

Re: HF2523

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to share **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's support of HF2523**. With more Minnesotans facing food insecurity and nutrition needs, we strongly support increased funding for Minnesota's Senior Nutrition Program to improve health, build community and offer nutrition to older adults.

LSS is a provider of essential services across all 87 counties with more than 2,500 employees who serve one in 65 Minnesotans every year. We are committed to innovative, person-centered service delivery that promotes resilience and long-term stability for people in all stages of life. This includes 50 years of experience serving as a respected, trustworthy meals provider offering nutritious, well-balanced, affordable meals to older adults. LSS Meals provides these meals through congregate dining, meals on wheels services and home delivered meals in 165 communities in 43 counties across the state.

More Minnesotans need access to Minnesota's Senior Nutrition Program. Our older adult population is growing while more Minnesotans are facing food insecurity. Additionally, the costs of food and transportation for meals has drastically increased as state funds have not. Increased investment to provide affordable, nutritious meals is critical to helping our neighbors have the opportunity to live healthier, more active, and independent lives.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to express LSS' support of HF2523. Please contact Erin Sutton, LSS' Senior Director of Advocacy, at erin.sutton@lssmn.org if we may provide further information on this deeply important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roxanne Jenkins".

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