



# MN Leadership Council on Aging

April 26, 2023

The Honorable Senator John Hoffman  
The Honorable Senator Omar Fateh  
The Honorable Senator Jim Abeler  
The Honorable Representative Mohamud Noor  
The Honorable Representative Peter Fischer  
The Honorable Representative Dave Baker

Dear Human Services Conferees,

**On behalf of the undersigned members of the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging,** I write today with a timely request for you to prioritize the attached policy provisions in your final legislation to ensure Minnesota is a great state to grow up *and to grow old*.

As trusted organizations in the aging sector, our members worked this year to advance *essential* policy solutions addressing the demographic shift of Minnesota, which grows older and more diverse each day. The provisions below move us towards being an age-friendly state and meeting the fundamental human needs facing older adults, their families, and caregivers in communities across our state. **We ask for your leadership now, to address the important and ongoing societal opportunities and obligations.**

Please see our attached list of endorsed policy provisions and preferred positions. Together, let us make sure Minnesota values all people across the lifespan. I can be reached at 651-271-3116 or [adam@mnlcoa.org](mailto:adam@mnlcoa.org) with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: *MN Leadership Council on Aging Delegates, MN Diverse Elders Coalition Champions, MN Board on Aging, Age-Friendly MN Council, The Office of Governor Tim Walz and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan, Senator Kari Dziedzic, Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Speaker Melissa Hortman, Anna Burke, Hailey Ryan, Kevin Parker, David Zak, Sean Herring, Sebastian Gonzalez-Navarro, Josh Sande, Krysta Niedenhofer, and Josh Nye*

*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  
**MEMBER DELEGATES**



- **Cathy McLeer**, *State Director*, AARP Minnesota
- **Susan J. Parriott**, *Chief Executive Officer*, Alzheimer's Association – MN/ND
- **Nona Ferguson**, *Vice President, Economic Stability and Aging*, Amherst H. Wilder Foundation
- **Patti Cullen**, *President and CEO*, Care Providers of Minnesota
- **Roxana Linares**, *Executive Director*, Centro Tyrone Guzman
- **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 Service 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 VP of Services for Older Adults*, Lutheran Social Service of MN
- **Patrick Rowan**, *Executive Director*, Meals on Wheels
- **Jarrod Peterson**, *Public Policy Chair*, Minneapolis Area 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
- **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
- **Jarrod Peterson**, *Board Chair*, St. Paul Senior Workers Association
- **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
- **Matt Kramer**, *President and CEO*, Vision Loss Resources
- **Vickie Snyder**, *Board Chair*, Vital Aging Network
- **Julie Manworren**, *President and CEO*, Volunteers of America – MN/WI

**Mission:** *Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging creates communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota.*

**We champion:**

- *Diverse, equitable, and inclusive communities in which to age*
- *A Minnesota free of ageism*
- *Coordinated age-friendly systems*
- *People who provide care for older Minnesotans*

**More at [www.mnlcoa.org](http://www.mnlcoa.org)**

Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging  
**ENDORSED LEGISLATION**



	ORIGINAL BILLS	CURRENT POSITION	EXPERT CONTACT
1	Age-Friendly MN Council <a href="#">HF1971</a> (Kozlowski) <a href="#">SF1749</a> (Putnam)	We support the <b>House</b> language and funding levels. We ask to make this body permanent.	Cathy McLeer, AARP MN CMcLeer@aarp.org
2	Housing Supports* <a href="#">HF732</a> (Her) <a href="#">SF992</a> (Bolden)	We support the shared position of the House and Senate to reform countable income policies.  <i>This language is in SF2995*/HF2930</i>	Lorna Schmidt, Catholic Charities Lorna.Schmidt@cctwincities.org
3	SNF/EW Provider Rate Increases <a href="#">HF733</a> (Edelson) <a href="#">SF780</a> (Hoffman)	We support the <b>House</b> language and funding levels on Elderly Wavier and the <b>Senate</b> language on nursing home funding. We ask for full funding above the Senate position for nursing homes and to include language addressing 21-month delay in nursing home payments.	Kari Thurlow, LeadingAge MN kthurlow@leadingagemn.org Patti Cullen, Care Providers of MN pcullen@careproviders.org
4	Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) <a href="#">HF2283</a> (Albright) <a href="#">SF2103</a> (Housley)	We support <b>House and Senate</b> language and funding levels.	Kari Thurlow, LeadingAge MN kthurlow@leadingagemn.org Patti Cullen, Care Providers of MN pcullen@careproviders.org
5	MA Rate Increase for Home Care <a href="#">HF584</a> (Edelson) <a href="#">SF902</a> (Mann)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels.	Kathy Messerli, MN Home Care Assoc. kmesserli@mnhomocare.org
6	Home Care Rates and Policy Changes <a href="#">HF585</a> (Klevorn) <a href="#">SF903</a> (Hoffman)	We support <b>House and Senate</b> language that includes changes to homemaking.	Kathy Messerli, MN Home Care Assoc. kmesserli@mnhomocare.org

	ORIGINAL BILLS	CURRENT POSITION	EXPERT CONTACT
7	Palliative Care Advisory Council Continuation <a href="#">HF1940</a> (Bierman) <a href="#">SF2145</a> (Hoffman)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels. We also support SF2995's benefit study for MA and MNCare enrollees.	Jessica Hausauer, MN Network of Hospice & Palliative Care Jessica@mnhpc.org
8	Senior Meals Coalition <a href="#">HF2523</a> (Fischer) <a href="#">SF2244</a> (Maye-Quade)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels. We ask this to be built into the base.	Dawn Simonson, Trellis/M4A dsimonson@trellisconnects.org
9	Supported Decision Making <a href="#">HF2617</a> (Curran) <a href="#">SF2397</a> (Rasmusson)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels.	Amanda Vickstrom, MN Elder Justice Ctr. amanda.vickstrom@elderjusticemn.org
10	Respite Services <a href="#">HF1298</a> (Edelson) <a href="#">SF1020</a> (Maye-Quade)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels. We ask this to be built into base.	Sam Smith, Alzheimer's Assoc. samsmith@alz.org
11	Live Well at Home <a href="#">HF1851</a> (Hicks) <a href="#">SF1902</a> (Nelson)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels. We ask this to be built into the base.	Mary Jo George, AARP MN mgeorge@aarp.org
12	Culturally Relevant Alz. and Dementia Awareness <a href="#">HF1852</a> (Clardy) <a href="#">SF1814</a> (Fateh)	We support the <b>Senate</b> language and funding levels.	Sam Smith, Alzheimer's Assoc. samsmith@alz.org
13	Native American Elders Coordinator <a href="#">HF2876</a> (Becker-Finn) <a href="#">SF2945</a> (Abeler)	We support the <b>House</b> language and funding levels.	Lynn Shannon, MN Board on Aging lynn.shannon@state.mn.us

More at [www.mnlcoa.org/policy](http://www.mnlcoa.org/policy)