



MN Leadership Council on Aging

March 20, 2023

Honorable Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee
Room 200 State Office Building

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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On behalf of the undersigned members of the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, **I write today in strong support of HF2876 (Becker-Finn)** that ensures essential work of a Native American Elders Coordinators position within the Minnesota Board on Aging.

As trusted organizations across our state's aging sector, our shared mission is to create communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota. One of our longstanding values is that of culturally appropriate approaches. We believe that all older adults have the right to culturally appropriate community services, social connections and healthcare that fosters their ongoing physical, psychological, and spiritual well-being.

As such, we are proud to offer our support to this legislation. If passed, it will ensure a critical support needed for our state to better-address the unique aging needs and opportunities related to Native American elders as well as help to ensure that they receive culturally specific programming and services.

On behalf of our members and the one million older Minnesotans we work with, we ask for your support on including HF2876 in the Human Services Omnibus bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala
Executive Director
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: MN Leadership Council on Aging Delegates, MN Board on Aging, and
The Honorable Jamie Becker-Finn

Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Delegates supporting *Respite Care* legislation in HF1298 (Edelson):

Cathy McLeer, *State Director*
AARP Minnesota

Amanda Vickstrom, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Elder Justice Center

Susan Parriott, *Chief Executive Officer*
Alzheimer's Association MN/ND

Tom Hyder, *Interim Executive Director*
Minnesota Gerontological Society

Nona Ferguson, *Vice President, Economic Stability and Aging Services*
Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

Kathy Messerli, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Home Care Association

Patti Cullen, *President and CEO*
Care Providers of Minnesota

Jessica Hausauer, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care

Beth Wiggins, *Director of Caregiving and Aging Services*, **FamilyMeans**

Phil Duran, *Senior Advocate, Aging and Gender Care Access*, **Rainbow Health**

James Falvey, *Executive Director*
Friends & Co.

Deb Taylor, *Chief Executive Officer*
Senior Community Services

Jonathan Palmer, *Executive Director*
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center

Jane Pederson, *Chief Medical Quality Officer*
Stratis Health

Ruth Hampton Olkon, *Chief Executive Officer*
Jewish Family Services of St. Paul

Joseph Gaugler, *Robert L. Kane Endowed Chair in LTC and Aging*, **University of Minnesota**

Mary McKeown, *CEO*
Keystone Community Services

Kate Grathwol, *President and CEO*
Vision Loss Resources

Carol Lundquist, *Executive Director*
Living at Home Network

Vickie Snyder, *Chair, Board of Directors*
Vital Aging Network

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

Julie Manworren, *President and CEO*
Volunteers of America – MN/WI

Jarrod Peterson, *Public Policy Chair/President*
Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association and St. Paul 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**

