



MN Leadership Council on Aging

March 14, 2023

Honorable Members of the House Human Services Policy 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.

1265 Grey Fox Road
Suite 2
Arden Hills, MN 55112

(651) 271-3116
adam@mnlcoa.org
www.mnlcoa.org

On behalf of the undersigned members of the Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging, **I write today in strong support of HF1298 (Edelson)** which elevates the maximum funding an Essential Community Supports recipient can receive from \$400 per month to \$600, expands eligible services to include respite and companion services, and ensures an effective respite care grant program serving older adults and people with dementia.

As trusted organizations in the 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. We proudly come together to endorse this legislation because it targets several areas of focus that we share, including:

- Elevating the Essential Community Supports program and quality community-based services, including adult day, caregiver training, chore service, community living assistance, home-delivered meals, etc.;
- Addressing the growing number of Minnesotans living with Alzheimer's Disease or other form of dementia in a cost-effective, supportive way;
- Sustaining crucial and cost-effective respite grant supports for families by building upon the successes found by using one-time ARPA funds;
- Addressing directly racial equity and justice; and
- Supporting unpaid caregivers and curbing burnout.

On behalf of our members and the one million older Minnesotans we work with who call our state home – particularly strained families experiencing caregiver burnout – we ask for your support on HF1298.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala
Executive Director

Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging Delegates

Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

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

Cathy McLeer, *State Director*
AARP Minnesota

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

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

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

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 Services of St. Paul

Mary McKeown, *CEO*
Keystone Community Services

Carol Lundquist, *Executive Director*
Living at Home Network

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

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**

Amanda Vickstrom, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Elder Justice Center

Tom Hyder, *Interim Executive Director*
Minnesota Gerontological Society

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**

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**

Kate Grathwol, *President and CEO*
Vision Loss Resources

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

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

