



MN Leadership Council on Aging

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Tim Walz, Minnesota Governor
The Honorable Melissa Hortman, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Kari Dziedzic, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Bobby Joe Champion, President of the Senate

Dear Governor Walz and Legislative Leaders,

I write today in response to your 2023 budget targets with an urgent request to reconsider the resources needed by chairs of the health and human services committees to ensure that Minnesota is a great state to grow up *and to grow old*.

Minnesota is experiencing an unprecedented demographic shift – growing older and more diverse each day – with more than *one million people* over age 65. The value of these older adults is woven into the fabric of our society, and each day we see how families and communities are struggling to meet our basic societal obligations.

As trusted organizations in the state’s aging sector, Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging members have worked with lawmakers to advance *essential* policy solutions that move us towards being an age-friendly state and address the fundamental human needs of older adults, such as meals, shelter, family supports, ideas to close equity gaps and strengthen our infrastructure, as well as to increase rates so providers can offer a service safety net and family-sustaining wages to lift a dedicated workforce – the majority of which are women and people of color – out of poverty. **But the health and human services omnibus bills can’t address these societal obligations without your leadership.**

I ask each of you to increase these targets and ensure “One Minnesota” extends to our state’s older adults and caregivers. Together, let us make sure our state values all people across the lifespan and doesn’t continue to leave older adults and their families behind.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala
Executive Director
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: MN Leadership Council on Aging Delegates, The Honorable Senator John Hoffman, The Honorable Senator Melissa Wiklund, The Honorable State Representative Mohamud Noor, and The Honorable State Representative Tina Liebling

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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