



April 6, 2022

Dear Representative Nelson and House State Government and Elections Committee Members:

On behalf of the Minnesota Board on Aging, I thank you for your support of HF4293, Article 2, Section 51 entitled, Legislative Task Force on Aging. This section was introduced as HF 4036/SF 4309. This legislation would establish a legislative task force to examine the necessity for a department on aging.

The pandemic and subsequent long-term care workforce crisis has alerted us all to the impact and opportunities an aging population will have on our state. A Legislative Task Force will address the necessity for a statewide Plan of Action across all state agencies: efficient partnerships and investments with businesses and nonprofits, local governments and neighborhoods to ensure healthy aging.

Please see the attached facts and demographic data on the proposed legislation.

As Minnesota's State Unit on Aging, the MBA promotes policies to the state legislature, the Governor and state agencies that accurately reflect the needs and interests of older Minnesotans. The MBA also advises on and coordinates government plans around aging to ensure that Older American's Act requirements are met, while also working to create a collective vision that represents the best interests of older Minnesotans.

If we can answer any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susan Mezzenga', with a date '3/22' written below it.

Susan Mezzenga
Chair