

March 8, 2021

Representative Zach Stephenson, Chair
Commerce Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: House File 586 – Volunteer Driver Definition

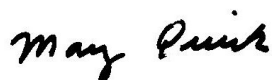
Dear Chair Stephenson and Members of the Conference Committee:

The 32 members Programs of the Living at Home Network see firsthand how important volunteer drivers are for seniors to be able to continue to live in their homes and to get out to medical and other appointments. We ask the Commerce Finance and Policy Committee for the passage of House File 586 (Murphy) as amended by the author.

Every year our network programs find it harder and harder to recruit volunteer drivers and are worried about our ability to continue to be able to provide the volunteer rides that so many seniors depend on. Each volunteer driver is essential and it is crushing when a program loses a driver because the volunteer's insurance will go up if he/she continues to be a volunteer driver.

Annually the Living at Home Network members provide over 158,000 miles of volunteer rides. In Greater Minnesota where doctor appointments are often an hour or more drive from home, these volunteer rides are especially essential. The volunteers are giving their time, using their own cars, and taking the serious responsibility of transporting passengers who are often frail. Passage of this bill will help us to be able to continue to provide those rides and give us the opportunity to grow our volunteer driver programs.

Sincerely,



Mary Quirk
Executive Director, Living at Home Network