



AARP Testimony on HF 1976
Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee
House of Representatives
March 13, 2025

Chairman Baker and Committee Members,

AARP has repeatedly called on lawmakers to support family caregivers, who are the backbone of our long-term care system, play a critical role in caring for their loved ones, and delay expensive nursing home care. One of the best ways to support caregivers is through Paid Family Medical Leave. Unfortunately, HF 1976 would eliminate some Minnesotans', especially our state's caregivers', ability to access the important benefits of Paid Family Medical Leave.

The economic contribution of Minnesota's 740,000 family caregivers is estimated to be \$10 billion.¹ Despite the clear financial contributions of caregivers, their emotionally, physically, and financially strenuous work is not recognized with pay when they need to take time off work to care for loved ones. Moreover, paid leave can provide significant benefits to employees and society, such as allowing older Minnesotans to age in place, improving the retention of women's participation in the workforce, and benefiting businesses by reducing turnover, boosting productivity, and enhancing morale.

We respectfully ask you to vote no on H.F. 1976. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of our more than 620,000 AARP members statewide.

Thomas Elness
State Advocacy Director
AARP Minnesota

¹ AARP Public Policy Institute, "Number of Family Caregivers, Hours, and Economic Value of Caregiving, by State, 2021"