



Support for Legislative Task Force on Aging

HF 979, SF 1022

Elder Voice Advocates supports the passage of the Legislative Task Force on Aging. It is imperative that Minnesotans have a public discussion about aging issues and charge the Task Force on Aging to assess the issues and recommend a Statewide Plan for Aging with specific legislative proposals and a recommended governmental entity to lead and execute this Statewide Plan.

A Legislative Task Force is a first step toward planning and implementation of a multi-year plan through a designated office that would be accountable to all Minnesotans.

The MN state demographer has projected that:

- MN will reach a milestone in 2023: 1 million people over the age of 65.
- In the next 7 years, 300,000 Minnesotans will be over the age of 75.
- Today, the highest percentage of aging adults live in greater Minnesota. In 15 counties, the percentage of older adults ranks from 23% to 32% of their population. [State Demographer Report 2/8/22](#)

We are all aging. Most older adults want to age in their communities and some will need a range of supports provided in their home. Others may want a community setting or need nursing home and/or assisted living that provides high quality care.

Hundreds of aging adults already require safe and physically accessible housing arrangements within *our own homes or within our communities*. Another growing segment of *our* aging population will not be able to afford increasing property taxes and rent resulting in draining retirement savings completely. *We will require* transportation within *our* communities; health care within *our* communities; possibly employment, and other support services.

Compounding this situation is the growing staffing shortages, which is creating a crisis in quality care in long-term care and other health care settings. Delaying this responsibility to assist our aging demographic is not an option.

It is a human right for all seniors in Minnesota to have the supports needed to live in their communities. The Legislative Task Force on Aging will enable this to become a reality with a Statewide MN Plan for Aging that will drive fundamental change in how we care for and support older adults in their communities