



# MN Leadership Council on Aging

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Members of the Senate Housing & Homelessness Prevention Committee

On behalf of the undersigned members of the MN Leadership Council on Aging, **I write today in full support of SF4592 (Xiong)**, which seeks to secure the Minnesota Homeless Study for our state.

We're all aging. Thanks to the insights of this ongoing research, we have been able to understand that older adults in Minnesota were the only segment of our state's population to see an increase in homelessness from 2018-2023. As we age, our trusted organizations work together to endorse policy solutions that advance our shared mission of creating communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota.

Today, to do our work, we ask for your support on this proven and unique set of resources. For 30 years, our members have counted on this tool, and along with the companion Reservation Homeless Study, we ask you to secure this crucial information for our state going forward. Help us to understand and work with you to address homelessness and housing instability across our aging state.

On behalf of our members, I ask for your support for SF4592.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

*Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging is a champion, thought leader, planner, and educator that advances positive system change for older adults, 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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## **Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging**

Delegates supporting the *Minnesota Homeless Study* legislation in HF4645 (Kozlowski):

Robert Freeman, *Vice President, Public Policy*  
**Alzheimer's Association MN/ND**

Kimelyn Knight, *Director of Aging Services,*  
**Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**

Toby Pearson, *President and CEO*  
**Care Providers of Minnesota**

Patricia McArdle, *Director of Aging and Disability*  
*Services, Catholic Charities Twin Cities*

Katey Zanolli-Wade, *Senior Director of Aging*  
*and Economic Security, East Side Neighborhood*  
**Services**

James Falvey, *Executive Director*  
**Friends & Co.**

Ruth Hampton Olkon, *Chief Executive Officer*  
**Jewish Family Services of St. Paul**

Kari Thurlow, *President and CEO*  
**LeadingAge Minnesota**

Kristin Rigg, *Executive Director*  
**Living at Home Network**

Tory Merhar, *Associate Vice President*  
*of Older Adults*  
**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**

Jarrod Peterson, *Public Policy Chair/President*  
**Minneapolis Area Senior Workers Association**  
**and St. Paul Senior Workers Association**

Dawn Simonson, *President and CEO, Trellis*  
**Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

Paula Woischke, *Director, Whitney Senior Ctr.*  
**Minnesota Association of Senior Services**

Amanda Vickstrom, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Elder Justice Center**

Heidi Holste, *Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Gerontological Society**

David Blomquist, *Interim Executive Director*  
**Minnesota Network of Hospice and Palliative Care**

Phil Duran, *Senior Advocate, Aging and Gender*  
*Care Access, Rainbow Health*

Deb Taylor, *CEO, Senior Community Services*

Jane Pederson, *Chief Medical Quality Officer*  
**Stratis Health**

Rajean Moone, *LTC Administration Faculty and*  
*Associate Director of Policy, University of Minnesota*  
**Center for Healthy Aging and Innovation**

Vickie Snyder, *Chair, Board of Directors*  
**Vital Aging Network**

