



MN Leadership Council on Aging

March 6, 2024

Honorable Members of the Senate Human Services Committee
Room 1200 Minnesota Senate Building

On behalf of the undersigned members of the MN Leadership Council on Aging, **I write today in support of SF4329 (Rasmusson)/HF4308 (Kiel)**, which removes the requirement that older adults signing a lease at a Minnesota assisted living must first call the Senior LinkAge Line to get counseling and an approval code.

As trusted organizations in our state's aging sector, we endorse policy solutions designed to advance our shared mission of creating communities and systems that support aging with dignity and a spirit of well-being in Minnesota. We have long held the belief that all people have the right to exercise choices and we advocate for change when these rights are impinged upon. We appreciate your responsibility to create policy solutions that support the people of our state on their respective journeys.

We're all aging. Minnesota's older adults and their families have questions that need trusted answers. As we age, everyone in our state will be better served if the busy counselors at the Senior LinkAge Line are freed up to focus on the increasing volume of Minnesotans who want assistance. Reallocating resources to reach older adults further upstream during care transitions would be a wiser use of existing funds. On behalf of our members, all aging Minnesotans, and their caregivers, I ask for your support for SF4329.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Suomala
Executive Director
Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging

Cc: Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging Delegates,
The Honorable Senator Jordan Rasmusson

*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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Delegates supporting the *care options counseling modification* legislation in SF4329 (Rasmusson):

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

Ann Bailey, *President, DARTS*

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

Beth Wiggins, *Director of Caregiving*
and Aging Services, FamilyMeans

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

Patrick Rowan, *Executive Director*
Meals on Wheels

Jarrold 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

Kathy Messerli, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Home Care Association

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

Rajeane 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

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