AARP Minnesota

AARP Testimony on SF 2498
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
March 25, 2025

Chair Klein and Committee Members,

AARP encourages you to please oppose SF 2498 which would inhibit older Minnesotans' ability to access Medicare supplemental plans if they desire to utilize one. This bill would eliminate Minnesotans' freedom and choice to enroll in Medicare Supplemental insurance plans by repealing state law set to go into effect in 2026 that allows Minnesotans to pick the plan that works best for them.

Currently in Minnesota, those eligible to enroll in Medicare have an initial enrollment window to enroll in a Medicare Supplemental Insurance Plan (sometimes called Medigap) plan without medical underwriting. If Minnesotans select a Medicare Advantage plan, and in the future want to change to Medigap instead, they cannot do so without going through medical underwriting which often means denial or prohibitive costs. The same can also apply even for those that enrolled in Medigap who want to change plans at a future date since, without an open enrollment window, medical underwriting would be required.

Lastly, we would encourage the Legislature to consider Medicare Savings Programs, a joint federal/state program for people on Medicare who have limited income and resources, as an alternative way of helping Minnesotans with limited income and resources pay for some or all of their Medicare costs. For those who qualify, MSPs can help with out-of-pocket costs such as premiums, copays, coinsurance, and deductibles.

We are sensitive to increasing premiums and balancing affordability with increased access, so we plan to continue to be engaged in discussions around alternatives to repeal. Please oppose SF 2498 and maintain existing state law which will soon give Minnesotans more choices as they age. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Thomas Elness
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AARP Minnesota