



1919 University Avenue W., Suite #500 | Saint Paul, MN 55104
1-866-554-5381 | Fax: 651-644-5539 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/mn | aarpmn@aarp.org
twitter: @aarpmn | facebook.com/aarpmn

**AARP Testimony on SF 2216
Senate Finance Committee
April 21, 2025**

Chair Marty and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 620,000 members statewide, I am writing today to share AARP's concerns about proposed changes to our state's Medicare supplement policy statutes found in Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 62A.31. Medicare supplement plans (often called "Medigap") provide health insurance to help pay for care not covered by traditional Medicare and are often the alternative to Medicare Advantage plans.

AARP championed the critical changes passed in 2023 that ensure guaranteed issue to Medigap plans starting next year. Unfortunately, SF 2216 proposes significant changes to that law that will increase health care costs for older Minnesotans and take away consumer choice. Since learning about legislation to penalize or repeal guaranteed issue, our members have engaged at historic levels in an effort to preserve our state's Medigap law.

Specifically, the changes would impose a lifetime penalty, up to 10%, for Minnesotans switching to or enrolling in Medigap. Making this type of sweeping change to the law before it has even taken effect is unwarranted. The proposed penalty would come out of seniors' pockets, be paid directly to insurance carriers, and would apply in addition to annual premium increases.

While AARP understands the balancing act the Department of Commerce must take to both protect consumers and promote healthy insurance markets, the changes in this bill are a solution in search of a problem. We look forward to working with Chair Klein and all stakeholders to help ensure any changes to Medigap insurance this session do not unduly burden seniors' healthcare costs or access to care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. For questions or further discussion, please contact me at telness@aarp.org.

Thomas Elness
State Advocacy Director
AARP Minnesota

