



Office of
Ombudsman for
Long-Term Care



February 7, 2025

To: Chair Hoffman and Members of the Human Services Committee

From: Alzheimer's Association, MN/ND Chapter, AARP Minnesota, Mid-MN Legal Aid, Minnesota Elder Justice Center, Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care, Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Re: Support for Senator Fateh's bill SF 814

Chair Hoffman and Members of the Committee:

Our organizations are writing in support of Senator Fateh's bill **(SF 814)** which provides guidance limiting the reasons a lead agency may deny a facility's Housing Support application.

Housing Support is an essential support for many residents in multiple settings, including assisted living facilities. Without equitable access to funds that both a facility and residents are eligible for, property maintenance, household supplies, and raw food costs must be covered by revenue streams never intended to cover these expenses.

Advocates have received numerous complaints surrounding insufficient access to food, and in some cases, providers using food shelves and other resources due to the inability to access Housing Supports. Residents report poor quality food, lack of fresh fruits and vegetables, and meals that do not meet residents' nutritional needs and preferences.

Advocates have also received complaints from residents whose housing becomes unstable due to an inability to access Housing Supports. Residents with lower incomes have fewer options when Housing Supports access is limited and report facing contract termination proceedings when they cannot access financial support they are eligible for.

We support this bill as we believe it will address concerns regarding the environment, meals, and quality of life for residents making an informed choice to receive services in these settings.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important legislation.

AARP Minnesota

Alzheimer's Association, MN/ND Chapter

Mid-MN Legal Aid

Minnesota Elder Justice Center

Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care

Office of Ombudsman for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities