



March 8, 2025

Chair Hoffman and members of the Human Services Committee,

I am writing to you in support of SF 1789, a bill supporting the Minnesota Board on Aging's work through additional staff.

OOLTC, a program of the Minnesota Board on Aging, recognizes the importance of a strong leader in the state's transitioning demographics. As our population ages, we collectively need the resources and support required to ensure quality of life for all Minnesotans. Specifically, OOLTC supports the following provisions in the bill:

- An additional FTE to ensure compliance with federal regulations: as federal regulations change, an increasingly likely possibility, dedicated staff who can track changes and ensure statewide compliance will become even more essential. Older adults, including those receiving long-term services and supports, will benefit from this additional staff.
- Additional staff for the Senior LinkAge Line: older adults receiving long-term services and supports rely on the Senior LinkAge Line to provide clear information about their options for care. Adequate staffing for this resource is essential.

Supporting Minnesota Board on Aging staff with the additional colleagues they need to continue their work and plan for the future will support older adults across the state.

Thank you for your work supporting older adults in Minnesota and for supporting SF 1789.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Hennen
State Ombudsman
Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care