



Minnesota Board on Aging
PO Box 64976
St. Paul, MN 55164-0976

March 11, 2025

Dear Chair Hoffman and Human Services Committee members,

On behalf of the MN Board on Aging (MBA), I am writing in support of SF 2310 to extend and expand the existing funding for Supported Decision-Making (SDM). SDM is a key component of the FFY 2024-2027 State Plan on Aging developed and implemented by the MBA, which states the following:

“The MBA, Live Well at Home® grantees, and legal services providers all work to advance Supported Decision Making (SDM). SDM provides an alternative to guardianship, a court process that takes away a person’s legal ability to make decisions about their life. Instead, SDM works by empowering individuals— such as those with intellectual disabilities and some older adults—to make decisions about their lives with the help of their supporters, who often include family and friends along with professionals such as health care agents and attorneys. SDM is increasingly recognized as a best practice to support adults who are not able to be fully independent.

SDM has broad application and benefits. It helps older people remain at home longer because they are working with social workers or care teams comprised of a social worker, attorney, caregiver, or others who can help identify suitable alternatives to guardianship through individual assessment, development of power of attorney forms, health care directives, and SDM agreements.”

We appreciate your support of SF 2310 and the issues facing older adults and their families in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maureen Schneider'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Maureen' being more prominent.

Maureen Schneider
Chair, Minnesota Board on Aging