



**AARP Testimony on SF 2630  
Senate Human Services Committee  
March 19, 2025**

Chair Hoffman and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 620,000 AARP members statewide, we appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of S.F. 2630. This legislation would continue Minnesota's commitment to being age-friendly, addressing the future for the state's aging population through a multi-sector blueprint for aging, and investing in community grants. Without legislative action, the Council will sunset in 2027.

Our counties, cities, towns, and neighborhoods are the foundation for the high quality of life we strive for in Minnesota. Our citizens aged 50 and older are invaluable assets and play a fundamental role in building our communities. Today, 30 Age-Friendly Communities are enrolled in the network representing more than one-third of the state population, plus the state of Minnesota which enrolled in 2022. Here are a few examples of the collaboration happening in Age-Friendly communities:

- Lakes Area Age-Friendly, serving **Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, and Traverse counties**, has worked on serving people with dementia, building disaster emergency planning, and improving transportation for older Minnesotans
- **Maple Grove** partnered with T-Mobile to provide tablets and training for residents to remain connected at home, especially helpful in addressing social isolation
- **Northfield** heard concerns from residents who were unable to connect with their healthcare providers and created and distributed a telemedicine guide to encourage and educate residents to visit their providers remotely
- **Lake County** is focused on home assessments and modifications, in addition to a grassroots initiative to develop affordable and accessible intergenerational housing
- **Princeton** created a "Community Center Without Walls" to address social isolation.

By design, the Age-Friendly Council brings together voices from state agencies, tribal communities, and older Minnesotans to build bridges across departments working together to break down silos and find solutions to help older Minnesotans. Finally, many policymakers are rightly thinking about how Minnesota will embrace the opportunities and address the challenges of an aging population. Now, as the state's Age-Friendly Council is midway through the development of the Multi-Sector Blueprint for Aging, is not the time to disband the Minnesota Age-Friendly Council.

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