

April 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Minnesota Legislature,

On behalf of the undersigned leaders from across Minnesota's aging sector, we write today in unprecedented unity to express our collective support for including two key pieces of legislation in the Human Services Omnibus Bills. **We appreciate seeing the language from SF1789 and SF2630 were included in the Senate, and hope to see their companions, HF1472 and HF2646 added to the House bill, as they are key to our state's essential infrastructure for aging.**

As communities manage demographic shifts and brace for a season of disruption and change, now is not the time to initiate more change, but to bolster proven state entities advancing shared work across Minnesota. In that spirit, we ask that you prioritize these two modest investments:

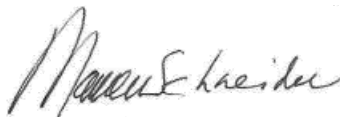
- **SF2630/HF2646** secures just over \$2 million annually to keep the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council and their cross-sector work with state agencies, tribal and local governments, and statewide community partners. This small investment retains their three state staff, ongoing competitive local grants, and efforts advancing Minnesota's *Multisector Blueprint for Aging*. Without legislative action this year, all the Council's work would otherwise come to an end.
- **SF1789/HF1472** secures \$2 million annually to expand the Senior LinkAge Line® (SLL) and ensure the Minnesota Board on Aging (MBA), the federally designated State Unit on Aging, can implement the Older Americans Act Final Rule. This investment supports the dramatically increasing demand for the Senior Linkage Line across six of the Area Agencies on Aging, as well as the staffing needed to best meet the complex needs across our state.

Together, these bills offer incredible value for taxpayers as small state investments. We implore you to keep the Senate position and help ensure that aging is a clear and long-term priority for our state.

Sincerely,



Julie Manworren  
Chair  
MN Leadership Council on Aging



Maureen Schneider  
Chair  
MN Board on Aging



Sherrie Pugh  
Chair  
Age-Friendly MN Council



cc: David Zak, Megan Rossbach, Nick Stumo-Langer, Amanda Rudolph, Jacob Grundhauser

**Minnesota leaders supporting the inclusion of SF2630/HF2646  
and SF1789/HF1472 in the final Human Services Omnibus Bills**

- Cathy McLeer, *State Director*, **AARP Minnesota**
- Rebecca Sash, *Director*, **Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging**
- Robert Freeman, *Vice President, Public Policy*, **Alzheimer's Association MN-ND**
- Kimelyn Knight, *Director of Aging Services*, **Amherst H. Wilder Foundation**
- Mary Niedermeyer, *Chief Executive Officer*, **CAPI USA**
- Toby Pearson, *President and CEO*, **Care Providers of Minnesota**
- Amy Gavanda, *Director of Aging and Disability Services*, **Catholic Charities Twin Cities**
- Lori Vrolson, *Executive Director*, **Central Minnesota Council on Aging**
- Xavier Vazquez, *Executive Director*, **Centro Tyrone Guzman**
- Heather Pender, *Director*, **Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging**
- Ann Bailey, *Executive Director*, **DARTS**
- Katey Zanolli-Wade, *Sr Director of Aging & Economic Security*, **East Side Neighborhood Services**
- Beth Wiggins, *Director of Caregiving and Aging Services*, **FamilyMeans**
- James Falvey, *Executive Director*, **Friends & Co**
- Benny Roberts, *Executive Director*, **Hallie Q. Brown Community Center**
- Ruth Hampton Olkon, *Chief Executive Officer*, **Jewish Family Service of St. Paul**
- Kwangja Kwon, *Executive Director*, **Korean Service Center**
- Kari Thurlow, *President and CEO*, **LeadingAge Minnesota**
- Kristin Rigg, *Executive Director*, **Living at Home Network**
- Tory Merhar, *Associate Vice President, Older Adult Services*, **Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota**
- Jarrod Peterson, *Chair*, **Mpls Area Senior Workers Assn. & St. Paul Senior Workers Association**
- Dawn Simonson, *President and CEO*, **Trellis**
- Paula Woischke, *Director, Whitney Senior Center*, **Minnesota Association of Senior Services**
- Heidi Holste, *Executive Director*, **Minnesota Gerontological Society**
- Kathy Messerli, *Executive Director*, **Minnesota Home Care Association**
- Adam Suomala, *Executive Director*, **Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging**
- David Blomquist, *Interim Executive Director*, **Minnesota Network of Hospice & Palliative Care**
- Jason Swanson, *Executive Director*, **Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging**
- Cheryl Hennen, *State Long-Term Care Ombudsman*, **Office of Ombudsman for Long-Term Care**
- Kathy Greiner, *Executive Director*, **Rebuilding Together Minnesota**
- Anjuli Mishra Cameron, *Chief Executive Officer*, **SEWA-AIFW**
- Laurie Brownell, *Director*, **Southeastern Area Agency on Aging**
- Jane Pederson, *Chief Medical Quality Officer*, **Stratis Health**
- Donna Comer, *Board Liaison*, **Vital Aging Network**