



Healthy Aging Subcabinet Testimony

April 3, 2025

All 87 Counties are Aging

As a county commissioner I am well aware of our aging population. There is no state-wide strategic plan to guide the counties as to how to prepare, coordinate, and deliver the programs that will be needed. Without a comprehensive and strategic state led plan, 87 counties will be left to their own ability and means to prepare for the challenges of an aging county. If counties could do this on their own, they would already have done it.

Aging is a Public Health Issue

Aging is a public health issue and a bipartisan concern for our aging demographics. Minnesotans are all aging and require comprehensive planning and policies that support our aging population at every stage of life.

Aging is a Bipartisan Issue

Democrats and Republicans are all aging at the same rate. The number of disabilities as well as healthy aging issues is equally distributed among the Democrats and Republicans.

Aging is a Rural and Urban Issue

The issues that face an aging population are the same regardless of a rural or urban setting. An aging population requires a comprehensive plan and effective infrastructure to address the aging challenges for all Minnesotans.

The Aging of Minnesota needs Planning and Policies

The aging of Minnesota requires a comprehensive, strategic, and long-term plan to address the many issues of aging to assure a quality of life at every stage. The impact of an aging population has only begun to be realized. The aging of the

population cannot be stopped but its impact can be mitigated by a state led strategic plan and creation of well-developed policies.

The need for health and active services for the elderly can be estimated; however, without a strategic state plan to address the needs it is an empty exercise.

The issues facing the aging population include but are not limited to:

- Workforce
- Transportation
- Health Care including Dental Care
- Housing
- Coordination and streamlining of confusing and disjointed policies.

A Subcabinet of Healthy Aging is Essential

In order to adequately address the needs of an aging population, a Subcabinet on Health Aging is essential. A Healthy Aging Subcabinet and citizen engagement can produce a statewide strategic plan for our aging Minnesota. A Subcabinet along with participation of the counties and citizens will provide the strategic plan that Minnesota needs to address the issues of our aging population.

I urge you to support and pass H.F. 2725.