



Support of H.F. 2725 – Establishing the Healthy Aging Subcabinet and Citizens Engagement Council

Aging is not just a personal journey—it’s a public health issue, a bipartisan concern, and a reality that touches every Minnesotan. With our state’s population aging rapidly, we urgently need policies that support well-being at every stage of life, especially in later years. Yet for too long, aging policy in Minnesota has been fragmented, reactive, and shaped by a deficit mindset. It’s time for a bold, strategic shift.

H.F. 2725 provides that shift.

Based on the January 2025 recommendations of the Minnesota Legislative Task Force on Aging, this bill proposes the creation of a **Healthy Aging Subcabinet** and a **Citizens Engagement Council** to lead development of a statewide **Healthy Aging Plan**—a comprehensive, community-centered roadmap that supports aging with dignity, independence, and opportunity.

The Task Force’s final report calls for a **Cabinet-level entity housed within Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB)** and under the direction of the Governor’s Office. This new entity would hold responsibility for coordinating and implementing aging policy and funding across all sectors—ensuring that aging is prioritized not in silos, but across the entire fabric of government and community life.

Key Findings Driving the Need:

- **Demographic Reality:** Minnesotans aged 65+ now exceed 1 million—outnumbering school-aged children. This population will remain steady through 2050, with the 85+ age group growing fastest.
- **Geographic Inequity:** Greater Minnesota is aging faster than metro areas, as younger people migrate to cities. Seventy percent of older Minnesota women already live in Greater Minnesota.

Why H.F. 2725 Matters:

This legislation moves us beyond short-term fixes toward long-term, systemic solutions. It will assess and address the current and future needs in:

- Home care and health care
- Housing and transportation
- Long-term care planning and investment

It centers **public participation**—ensuring that the voices of older Minnesotans and their families shape the systems that impact their lives.









Minnesotans overwhelmingly want to age in their homes and communities—not in institutions. We must design policies that reflect this reality. Healthy aging is about more than medical care; it includes social connection, economic security, safe housing, and accessible transportation.

What This Bill Envisions: A Minnesota where:

- **Safe, affordable, innovative housing** is developed *with* older adults—not *for* them.
- **Public-private partnerships** deliver real solutions for caregiving, transit, and community living.
- **Older adults shape the policies** that impact their lives.
- **Access is embedded**—across race, gender, culture, ability, and geography.

The State Demographer has made it clear: aging is not a future challenge—it’s happening now. The time to act is now—with foresight, coordination, and urgency.

Why the Healthy Aging Subcabinet Is the Right Structure:

Why the Healthy Aging Subcabinet Stands Out Compared to other suggestions, the proposed Healthy Aging provides the authority, reach, and power to act		
Feature	Healthy Aging Subcabinet	Others
Structural Power	 Cabinet-level, direct authority	 Advisory
Cross-Agency Coordination	 Full coordination	 Limited
Access Focus	 Central to mission	 Variable
Legislative/Budget Influence Implementation Power	 Driven by the Legislature and the Governor	 Low

Bottom line:

- The **Subcabinet has teeth.** The others advise, but can’t act.
- The **Subcabinet breaks silos.** The others work within them.
- The **Subcabinet bakes in equity.** The others tack it on.
- The **Subcabinet drives decisions.** The others advocate from the sidelines.

Conclusion:

H.F. 2725 places older Minnesotans where they belong—**at the center of state planning and policy.** It creates lasting infrastructure to build communities that are not just age-friendly, but age-empowered.

We urge policymakers to **pass H.F. 2725** and commit to a coordinated, inclusive, and forward-looking approach to Healthy Aging in Minnesota. The well-being of our families, communities, and future generations depends on it.