

March 31, 2025

Representative Jim Nash, Co-Chair, State Government Finance and Policy  
Representative Ginny Klevorn, Co-Chair, State Government Finance and Policy  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
658 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Letter of support for HF 2725, establishing the Healthy Aging Subcabinet

Dear Co-Chairs Nash and Klevorn:

I submit this letter to you and your committee in support of House File 2725, a bill that would establish the Healthy Aging Subcabinet and the Citizens Engagement Council to develop a statewide Healthy Aging Plan for Minnesota. I also commend those members of the Legislative Task Force on Aging for their extensive work and deliberation in developing their report that forms the basis for this proposal.

State Demographer Susan Brower's presentation before the Task Force clearly demonstrated the need for Minnesota to examine and better understand the impact of our aging population here in Minnesota, and importantly, the need to be prepared not just for the increased demand for home and community-based care and services, but importantly to promote and support a broader approach for health, independence and community integration for older Minnesotans.

This bill represents a commitment to keep Minnesota a healthy and welcoming place for us to grow old, engaged with our families and friends, and valued in our society.

I enthusiastically support the provision in HF 2725 establishing a Citizens Engagement Council requiring representation comprised of people from across this state both metro and non-metro representatives, family and agency caregivers, Tribal Nations, Area Agencies on Aging, county and local governments, business sectors and innovators, educators, and particularly older Minnesotans. I would hope to see key state departments involved as well such as those involved with transportation, housing and housing finance, health, human services, commerce, and special councils relating to disabilities, especially visual and auditory disabilities. Broad representation will ensure that all sectors and areas of Minnesota are considered and addressed in our Healthy Aging Plan— metro and non-metro area.

Minnesota has led the country in awareness for the need to provide care and support particularly for those in physical and financial need. I love this State because it cares about its people – all of us. But now is not the time to let our guard down. Minnesota needs to consider and plan for our future. We will be the better for it and continue to be a great place to live and grow, no matter our age or limitations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'JV' followed by a horizontal line.

Jim Varpness  
406 Bluebird Lane  
Woodbury, MN 55125