

April 3, 2025

To: Members, House State Government Finance and Policy  
From: Mary Jo Schifsky, Founder  
GenSync LLC

RE: H.F. 2725

**I submit this testimony in support of H.F. 2725, to establish the Healthy Aging Subcabinet and Citizens Engagement Council that will produce a statewide Healthy Aging Plan for MN.**

- **H.F. 2725** would address critical components for Healthy Aging in MN, producing recommended policies and a plan for legislative approval. The Office for Healthy Aging, Subcabinet and Citizens Engagement Council will design a planning process that will include public input and examine local community needs.
- The **Healthy Aging Plan** will provide guidelines to replace the current fragmented process for funding services for older Minnesotans. Currently, older adult funding is focused on services provided by health care, home care and long-term care provider, to low-income adults. Attention to “the missing middle” cohort of older Minnesotans, those with too many resources to qualify for income-based programs but not enough to take care of all their needs, is missing. With extended lifespans, many older adults who don’t qualify for income-based programs are struggling with financial, housing and transportation challenges.
- MN’s Department of Employment and Economic Opportunity (DEED) has not, to this point, been tasked with expanding the definition of “working age” in the state and is working within an outdated paradigm. In collaboration with the planning initiatives outlined in H.F. 2725, DEED could focus its substantial resources on helping older adults help themselves through developing, promoting and funding programs with educational resources and employers to address the continuing opportunity of older worker workforce development. Optimizing the demographic swell of older adults could alleviate some of the current and projected workforce shortages throughout the state.
- Collecting, assessing and sharing data on the effectiveness of all activities undertaken by the processes or policies resulting from the implementation of **H. F. 2725** is mandatory. Planning to accommodate and oversee the aging of Minnesota’s population will build on the reputation MN has earned for its attentions to aging services and supports most in need; but reporting on the investments is critical for insuring funds are spent well.

Planning for the population swell of older adults nationally, internationally and, in MN has not received the attention a demographic event of this size deserves. **H. F. 2725** begins to address the oversight.