



February 6, 2023

Representative Ginny Klevorn
581 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Klevorn,

Please accept this letter of enthusiastic support for HF 979 on behalf of the University of Minnesota's Center for Healthy Aging & Innovation (CHAI). We are excited to be part of this critical work as a named member of the Task Force.

In 2022, Minnesota passed a major milestone with over one million older adults in our communities across the state. Today there are more older Minnesotans than children in school. This exciting demographic shift will continue with us into the next several decades and provides both opportunities and challenges for state government.

CHAI believes it is the right time for the legislature to explore state government's preparation for this demographic shift. We are confident that the Task Force will leverage the important work already underway through the Age-Friendly Council, Board on Aging, Multi-Sector Blueprint for an Age-Friendly Minnesota, and other stakeholder-led initiatives.

I am happy to testify about this legislation and work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph E. Gaugler".

Joseph Gaugler, PhD
Director