



May 28, 2025

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brad Finstad  
2418 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Angie Craig  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kelly Morrison  
1205 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
2426 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tina Smith  
720 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ilhan Omar  
1730 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer  
326 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Michelle Fischbach  
2229 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Pete Stauber  
145 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators and Representatives,

We write to express our urgent opposition to several emerging public policy proposals. They represent what would be a devastating destabilization of hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans' lives and shift unbearable costs to families and caregivers already extended beyond their limits. We ask you to lead the charge to defend all Minnesotans as we age by **rejecting** the following proposals:

- **Eliminating Critical Aging Services**

The proposal to eliminate or defund Older Americans Act programs is devastating. Home-delivered meals, caregiver support, Medicare counseling, and adult protective services are essential supports which prevent institutionalization, hospitalization, and abuse. Stripping these cost-effective programs would drive up healthcare costs, burden families, and undermine community-based aging. This is not a policy disagreement – it threatens the very systems that allow us to remain in our homes and communities as we age.

- **Medicaid Cuts**

The proposed FY2026 House budget calls for multi-billion-dollar cuts to Medicaid, which is a lifeline for 230,000 Minnesotans, including those requiring long-term care. Cuts would force reductions in eligibility and benefits, threatening coverage for thousands of dually eligible people. Even more troubling, new bureaucratic barriers targeting older Minnesotans nearing retirement – many of whom are already working, disabled, or caregiving – would jeopardize access to home health services, assisted living, and nursing homes with no plan to replace these lost services. This is not fiscal responsibility, but an abandonment of our obligation to care for all older Minnesotans.

- **Cuts in Navigation Supports**

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services FY2026 budget recommends eliminating dedicated funding for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). These crucial services advise, educate and empower people to navigate Medicare, Medicaid, Medigaps, long-term care insurance and services to support independence at home. We support the Minnesota Board on Aging and the Area Agencies on Aging efforts to help people learn about community-based resources and make informed decisions.

- **SNAP Restrictions**

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) impacts 440,000 Minnesota families each month. Federal proposals to impose time limits and work mandates on adults aged 55–64 are misguided. Older Minnesotans face real barriers to employment due to age discrimination and chronic health conditions. These proposals would increase food insecurity, push people into crisis, and reverse recent bipartisan progress made at the state level to fight hunger.

- **Undermining Medicare**

Though direct Medicare benefit cuts have not been formally proposed, the structural damage from reduced provider reimbursements and related Medicaid changes would erode access and affordability for Medicare recipients. Older Minnesotans cannot be asked to shoulder more out-of-pocket costs when many already struggle to afford medication and care on fixed incomes.

**As our congressional delegation, we call on each of you to:**

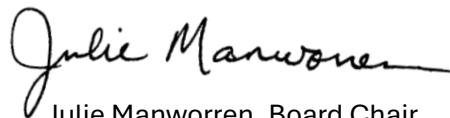
- **Reject all cuts to Medicaid, SNAP, ARDCs, and Older Americans Act programs;**
- **Fully fund the Older Americans Act, including Senior Nutrition, Caregiver Support, Transportation, Supportive Services, Health Promotion, Adult Protective Services and Pension Counseling Programs by retaining these programs in the Administration for Children and Families; and**
- **Protect Medicare by preserving access and affordability.**

Minnesota is experiencing a longevity revolution. As we age, policies must meet this demographic shift with compassion, savvy investment, and bipartisan resolve. Your continued support to protect and strengthen these programs that matter most to the wellbeing of older Minnesotans is essential. We ask you to lead the charge to defend these policies and critical investments now.

Sincerely,



Adam Suomala  
Executive Director



Julie Manworren, Board Chair  
President and CEO, Volunteers of America MN/WI

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**Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging**

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