March 17, 2026

TO: Chair Hoffman and of the Senate Human Services Committee
RE: Senate File SF4508 (Maye Quade) Senior Nutrition Policy Bill

Chairs Hoffman and Committee Members,

On behalf of the statewide Minnesota Community Action Partnership network that provides a broad range of services and community support from birth through older adulthood - including senior meals- to all 87 Minnesota counties we express our sincere appreciation to Senator Maye Quade and your leadership for hearing Senate File SF4508, the Senior Nutrition Program Policy Modification Bill.

The new language offered in this proposal is designed to extend more flexibility to senior meals service providers, which yields great efficiency and ability to serve more of our elders with nutritious food. A key element of the legislation is to create opportunities for community-based providers statewide to partner with local farmers for a win-win scenario--resulting in farm fresh produce reaching older adults in need of supplemental nutrition support beyond prepared meals.

We support the bill's proposed policy changes to technology, delivery systems, and expansion of partnerships to include food shelves, pantries, hospitals, and farmers. Removal of the *"only for meals"* restriction (from the Older Americans Act) would enable service providers like ours and partners at Lutheran Social Services, Metro Meals on Wheels and others the opportunity to offer delivery boxes and meal kits to the comfort and safety of our older adult neighbors' homes.

We strongly support Senate File SF4508 and urge you to move this bill forward for consideration this Session.

Thank you for the powerful work you all do to support economic opportunity for ALL Minnesotans. We look forward to ways that we can partner with you in this critical work to empower our friends and neighbors in Minnesota!

Sincerely,

Lori Schultz

Lori Schultz, Executive Director
Minnesota Community Action Partnership