Chair Hoffman and Members
Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Committee
Minnesota Senate

March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Hoffman and Members,

The Consumer Advocates Coalition writes to express our support for **SF 4256**, which aims to ensure residents in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities are treated as they should be - like they are living in their own homes.

Residents in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities have the right to enjoy and engage in activities with their neighbors and community, including a facility happy hour. Facilities have provided this opportunity for interaction and connection for residents statewide without needing a liquor license for years.

We appreciate that the Long-Term Care Imperative recognizes the fundamental premise of assisted living and skilled nursing facilities in Minnesota: this is the home of the residents who live there. Thus, this environment should be treated like a home. Just as a person in their own home does not need a liquor license to participate in a happy hour with their neighbors, residents in assisted living and skilled nursing facilities should not need to wait for a facility to be granted a liquor license, with the additional cost that a license creates, in order to spend time with their neighbors.

Activities in these settings are essential for supporting social connection and engagement between residents. Residents who choose to participate in a happy hour should have this opportunity made available to them without the added requirements imposed by a required liquor license.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the committee to support SF 4256.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of older adults and vulnerable Minnesotans.

Sincerely,

Consumer Advocates Coalition