Catholic Charities

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March 17, 2026

Dear Chair Hoffman and members of the Senate Human Services committee,

On behalf of Catholic Charities St. Cloud, a nonprofit serving Central Minnesota through more than 20 programs that support the physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs of individuals and families of all faiths and beliefs, I am writing to express our strong support for SF 4508.

Catholic Charities St. Cloud provides critical home-delivered and community-based nutrition services to older adults across 14 counties in Central Minnesota. Last year, we served 285,000 meals to 3,358 older adults. Due to 2025 budget cuts, however, 1,458 fewer older adults and 92,222 fewer meals were served – demonstrating how fragile the senior nutrition system is and providers like us need additional flexibility.

We know firsthand that older adults increasingly require flexible, innovative dollars to support senior nutrition – not only meals but groceries, medically tailored meals options, cooking classes, cooking equipment, collaborating with community partners, transportation support, and tools and strategies. SF 4508 helps make it possible to allow for innovative ways to keep older adults living independently, connected, and healthier.

SF 4508 provides clarity and flexibility needed for providers to adapt meal delivery models, strengthen food sourcing strategies, support individuals transitioning, improve emergency response capacity, and invest in tools that make senior nutrition more sustainable, especially in rural and underserved communities. These are exactly the supports older adults rely on to age with dignity, stability, and independence.

As a senior nutrition provider deeply rooted in Central Minnesota, Catholic Charities St. Cloud **strongly urges your support for SF 4508.** This bill will allow us to continue meeting the growing needs of older adults with dignity, innovation, and efficiency. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any further questions, please email Lily Hijazi-Sacay at lrsacay@flaherty-hood.com.

Sincerely,

Aaron Fisk, President and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud