MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF
AREA AGENCIES ON AGING

March 17, 2026

The Honorable John Hoffman and Erin Maye Quade
Minnesota State Senate Building
Capitol Office, 95 University Avenue W.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senators Hoffman, Maye Quade and members of the Senate Human Services Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging (m4a), representing the seven Area Agencies on Aging in the state of Minnesota, I ask you to support additional funding and policy changes to the state's Senior Nutrition Program. Today, I am writing to request your support of Senate File 4508/House File 4210, which clarifies statute language to increase efficiency in nutrition service delivery and provide flexibility for innovation.

SF4508/HF4210, helps meet the growing need for senior nutrition services by modernizing statute language. Changes to the Senior Nutrition Program policy as proposed in the bill would improve efficiency in service delivery and provide greater flexibility for innovation. SF4508/HF4210 clarifies how the funds are administered and how they can best serve older Minnesotans. It would allow for innovative delivery methods such as food boxes, meal kits and additional options beyond prepared meals along with other flexible options such as partnerships with farmers, grocery delivery services and collaboration with food shelves.

The proposed modernization of this statute also suggests a change to using the term older adults instead of seniors. This language is more consistent with efforts to re-frame aging. Updated language allows state funds to support medically tailored meals and support needed technology upgrades for nutrition providers to meet compliance requirements.

Minnesota's area agencies on aging administer Senior Nutrition Program dollars using a comprehensive accountability framework to prevent, detect and correct instances of fraud, waste and abuse. Every dollar is justified, documented and fully traceable to ensure program effectiveness and integrity.

Your support for SF4508/HF4210 represents a commitment to the well-being of Minnesota's aging population. Thank you for considering this important legislation. More information about this bill is available on the seniorservices.org website sponsored by m4a.

Respectfully,

Laurie Brownell

Laurie Brownell
m4a President