



February 18, 2020

The Honorable Karin Housley
Assistant Majority Leader
Minnesota Senate
Minnesota Senate Building – Room 3217
95 University Avenue West
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Housley:

Thank you for introducing SF 3281, which establishes a pilot project to serve victims of elder abuse. On behalf of LeadingAge Minnesota, we are proud to support this legislation.

If this bill is enacted, it will begin to address a critical need in Minnesota by establishing up to four pilot projects that implement a proven safe care shelter system and programming in Minnesota that directly aids victims of elder abuse. While this is a new concept in Minnesota, there are successful models like it throughout the United States. When an older victim of abuse has nowhere to go, shelter can be an effective way to stop abuse and begin the process of healing and recovery.

The bill will also create awareness and educate communities on elder abuse and resources available to serve those in need. According to data from the National Center on Law and Elder Rights, 1 in 10 individuals 65+ are affected by elder abuse. Whether emotional, financial, or physical in its nature, we must recognize that new resources must be made available to assist these individuals dealing with abuse.

LeadingAge Minnesota is proud to support this legislation because abuse and neglect of older adults is intolerable. We remain committed to ensuring that all seniors have access to safe, trusted settings and can receive supportive, compassionate services if they are victims of abuse and neglect.

In 2020, there will be 1 million seniors living in Minnesota. Supporting SF 3281 is another important step in protecting older adults.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gayle M. Kvenvold".
Gayle M. Kvenvold
President and Chief Executive Officer