March 28, 2016

Representative Nick Zerwas

433 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Zerwas,

AARP strongly supports your legislation to raise the Medical Assistance spend down limit to 100% of the poverty level and to increase the asset limits for people with disabilities and seniors who need help to remain living independently (HF559).

For many older Minnesotans who will no longer qualify for the Elderly Waiver program --due to the new Nursing Home Level of care criteria-- or who have incomes over the poverty limit, they have to spend down to 80% of the poverty level to retain Medical Assistance beginning in July. With policies such as this, we are concerned that many of these seniors may not have adequate resources to continue living independently in the community after meeting the spend down.

Most seniors want to live in their homes and in their communities. As the population of our state ages, we need to provide innovative solutions to seniors to enable them to maintain their independence as long as they are able.

Thank you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Will Phillips

AARP State Director