March 29, 2016

Representative Poppe

291 State Office Building

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Representative Poppe,

AARP strongly supports your bill (HF 3009) to create a community respite program. Family caregivers provide the bulk of long term care in our state and are critical in helping keep seniors out of expensive nursing homes. However, family caregivers without adequate support can struggle with emotional, physical and financial difficulty.

Programs to help caregivers- such as respite care services--are critical to help caregivers take the needed break they deserve. Today, unfortunately, the services for statewide respite care is not available to the many family caregivers providing this invaluable work. As the population ages, we need more programs to help keep seniors in their homes and communities.

We appreciate your leadership in addressing this problem.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Will Phillips

AARP State Director