



RE: [HF 4036 \(Klevorn\) Task Force on Aging](#)  
ATTN: Minnesota House State Government Finance and Elections Committee  
FROM: The Minnesota Council on Disability  
DATE: March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Honorable Chair Nelson and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Council on Disability urges members of the committee to support HF 4036 which establishes a legislative task force to examine aging demographics and issues affecting health, as well as determines the necessity for a state agency on aging.

Most, if not all, issues that impact the aging population, also impact the disability community, so it would be advantageous to gain a valuable partner in government to address these issues and advocate for our communities. Both the disability community and the aging community face access issues with transportation and inaccessible vehicles. Both communities seek affordable and accessible housing. Both have increased and complex health care needs. Both communities rely on human services, and it is always the goal for both the aging and disability communities to live as independently as possible in the home of their choice.

The Minnesota Council on Disability cares about and advocates for many communities, from the rare disease community, disabled veterans, people with temporary disabilities, and the aging community is no exception. Aging is a natural part of life and if one is lucky to live long enough, they will acquire a disability. From decreased vision and hearing, limited mobility, complex health conditions, and mental disabilities, aging and disabilities go hand and hand. As the with disability, aging affects us all.

Like the disability community, the aging community needs stronger representation in our government and this task force will determine what the best representation is. The state population of Minnesota is also aging rapidly so the need is timely and great. Our state government must have a plan to address the increasing health and demographic complexities of our aging population, so this task force is movement towards the right direction.

Thank you, Chair Nelson and members of the committee, for your support of HF 4036.

Sincerely,

Trevor Turner  
Public Policy Director