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March 22, 2023

To: Members of the House Human Services Finance Committee

Re: AARP Support of HF 1851; Live Well at Home Grants

Dear Chair Noor and Members of the Committee,

AARP strongly supports **Representative Hick's House File 1851**, a bill to strengthen and expand the Live Well at Home grants program. As the Minnesota population ages, the Live Well at Home grants provide critical funding to community organizations that provide services that help older Minnesotans live in their homes and communities. These services include chore services, respite, transportation, and support for family and friend caregivers.

While the program was established almost 20 years ago, it was designed as an innovation grant and was only authorized for one year. As a result, providers struggle to find funding to continue offering these services over the long term. Additionally, there are currently 14 counties that do not have Live Well at Home grants, which negatively affects thousands of older Minnesotans. AARP believes it is time to restructure and reinvest in this program to keep up with the aging population's demand and ensure that providers can maintain and expand their services.

Expansion of the Live Well at Home grant will:

- Create sustainable programs that improve the lives of older adults in Minnesota.
- Allow older adults to stay in their homes and decrease their reliance on long-term care facilities.
- Reduce expenses associated with medical care and caregiving and
- Use low-cost models that rely on volunteers to provide the services.

Thank you in advance for your support of this critical piece of legislation. If you have questions, please contact AARP Advocacy's Director, Mary Jo George, at mjgeorge@aarp.org or 651-271-6586.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cathy McLeer".

Cathy McLeer
State Director, AARP Minnesota

