

FOR USE BY INDIVIDUALS TO MBA

Send via email:

Kari L Benson, Executive Director kari.benson@state.mn.us

Send via USPS mail:

**Minnesota Board on Aging
PO Box 64976
St Paul, MN 55164**

Dear Minnesota Board on Aging Members and Kari Benson,

I am a [insert your information, an older adult, a caregiver, a professional, a concerned community member]. I ask for your support to protect aging in rural Minnesota by ensuring an equitable Intrastate Funding Formula (IFF) for rural communities. The current formula is heavily weighted to 60+ demographics and favors the 7-county metro region. [insert your town name] needs your support, and the health of older rural Minnesotans depends upon it.

Please prevent cuts to vital services for older adults in rural Minnesota. Please consider recommending an Intrastate Funding Formula weighted as follows: **20% for population 60+, 5% for 60+ with disability, 20% for 60+ low income, 15% for 60+ minority, 25% for 60+ rural, 5% for 60+ population density, 10% for 60+ living alone.** I would like the opportunity to continue to live in my community.

In my community, I have limited options for services such as meal delivery programs, I have longer transportation time to appointments, and I have limited access to technology and resources. Older American Act (OAA) programs truly act as lifeline in my rural community. These programs and services help people stay living in their homes.

In rural Minnesota, programs that provide services to older adults are at risk of being severely underfunded. The upcoming proposed changes to the Minnesota Intrastate Funding Formula would not meet the needs of older adults living in my community.

I care about the health and wellbeing of my older neighbors, and I support their desire to age independently and in their family homes.

Again, I ask you to prevent cuts to vital services in all Minnesota. Please consider recommending an Intrastate Funding Formula weighted as suggested by those serving me and my neighbors: 20% for population 60+, 5% for 60+ with disability, 20% for 60+ low income, 15% for 60+ minority, 25% for 60+ rural, 5% for 60+ population density, 10% for 60+ living alone. Help me maintain the opportunity for healthy aging in my rural community.

Sincerely,