



March 18, 2026

The Honorable Senator John Hoffman, Chair
Senate Human Services Committee

Re: North Metro Mayors Association Supports Senate File 4279

Dear Chair Hoffman and Committee Members:

On behalf of the North Metro Mayors Association (NMMA), we write to express our support for Senate File 4279.

Representing cities with a combined population of more than 475,000 Minnesota residents, NMMA is a collaboration of 15 north metro cities plus community partners working together to encourage private and public investments in the northern suburbs. NMMA member cities include Andover, Anoka, Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Circle Pines, Coon Rapids, Dayton, Fridley, Maple Grove, Mounds View, New Brighton, New Hope, Ramsey, and Spring Lake Park.

Senate File 4279 establishes a thoughtful framework for the siting and oversight of assisted living facilities licensed for six or fewer residents. It recognizes the importance of balancing residential care opportunities with neighborhood compatibility, orderly land use, and local planning considerations by requiring new assisted living facilities of this size not be located within 650 feet of an existing assisted living facility or licensed residential program. The bill also appropriately preserves flexibility by allowing approval where a local government grants an interim use or special use permit.

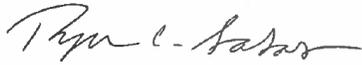
NMMA strongly supports delegating inspection authority to cities when requested. Under the bill, local governments may inspect these facilities for compliance with applicable building codes, fire and safety codes, health rules, and zoning ordinances. This authority is important and appropriate because local officials are often best positioned to respond quickly, evaluate site conditions, coordinate across departments, and address concerns before they become more serious.

Cities are already responsible for enforcing many of the standards that directly affect the safety and livability of residential properties. Allowing the Department of Human Services and the Department of Health to partner more directly with cities through delegated inspection authority will improve coordination, strengthen accountability, and promote more timely enforcement. Doing so will result in safer residential facilities for vulnerable residents while helping local governments more efficiently serve both facility residents and their neighbors.

Senate File 4279 reflects a balanced approach that respects the importance of community-based care while recognizing the legitimate role of local governments in public safety, land use, code enforcement, and neighborhood stability. By giving local cities an appropriate role in both siting and inspection, this legislation will support safer facilities and better protect the quality of life of residents living both inside and around these homes.

For these reasons, the North Metro Mayors Association respectfully urges your support for Senate File 4279 to help ensure that assisted living settings are safe, appropriately located, and effectively coordinated between state agencies and cities that are responsible for the public safety of residents and neighborhoods every day.

Sincerely,



Mayor Ryan Sabas
City of Champlin
NMMA President



Mayor John Elder
City of New Hope
NMMA Vice-President