

Mary Jo Schifsky Testimony

Legislative Task Force on Aging – 8/14/2024

*A Department for Community Aging would be encouraged to broaden our thinking about supporting employment of older adults (with funding) as we age. Knowing the State of MN does not have adequate resources to support older workers with inadequate income after “traditional retirement age”, a solution for how to provide resources for an aging population is straightforward.*

*MN’s Department of Employment and Economic Opportunity (DEED) has not, to this point, been tasked with expanding the definition of “working age” in the state and is working within an outdated paradigm. Many Boomer workers are unable to leave the workforce in their early sixties with adequate financial resources to support them during an expanded lifespan. Gen X and Millennial workers are being told they should plan to work much longer than Boomers.*

*DEED, in collaboration with the Department for Community Aging, could focus its substantial resources on helping older adults help themselves through developing, promoting and funding programs with educational resources and employers to address the continuing opportunity of older worker workforce development.*