

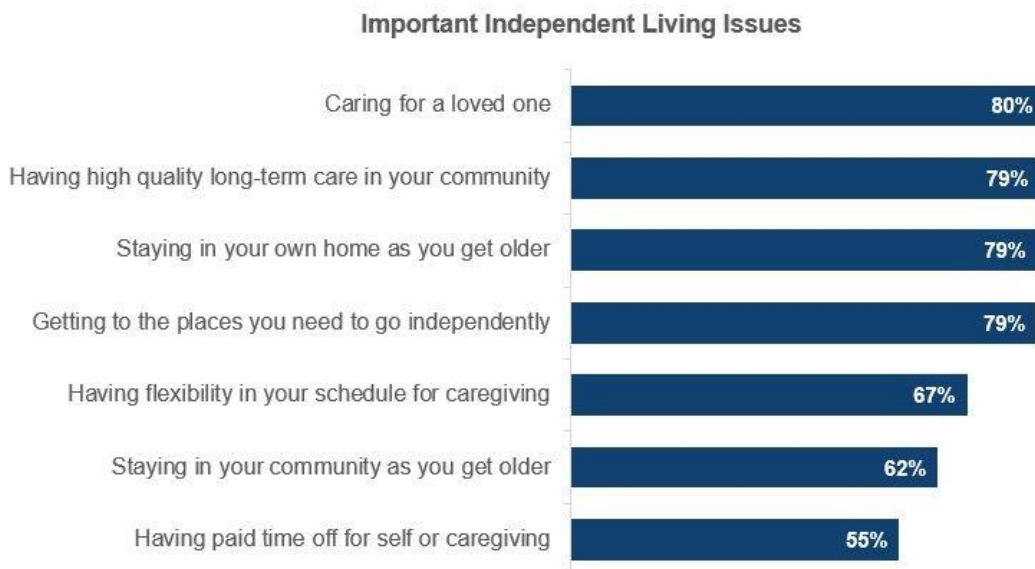


Senate Bill 2136 – Support
March 15, 2023
House Finance and Tax Committee
Janelle Moos, AARP ND- jmoos@aarpp.org

Chairman Headland and members of the House Finance and Tax Committee,

My name is Janelle Moos, Associate State Director for Advocacy with AARP North Dakota. We are here to provide support for Senate Bill (SB) 2136. Creating livable communities throughout our neighborhoods, where residents of all ages can live, work, raise their families, and retire- is a priority for AARP North Dakota. Essential to this vision is affordable housing.

Below is a chart from our 2020 North Dakota Vital Voices Survey, a state specific survey of issues that impact North Dakotan’s 45+ conducted every three years. In our survey last year, 79% indicated that staying in their own home as they got older, getting to the places they need to go and having access to quality long term care in their community was extremely or very important. Also, 62% said staying in their community as they got older was extremely or very important.



11. For the following list of issues, please indicate how important each is to you personally. (Percent 'extremely important' or 'very important') (n=722)

We want to thank you and previous legislatures for the continued support of the Homestead Property Tax Credit. It's an important tax break provided to older North Dakotans who are the most financially vulnerable.

Property taxes are some of the most burdensome taxes for many low-income and older homeowners. Many of our older citizens have lived in their homes for a long time. As their property values have increased, so have their property taxes. But many do not have the income to afford the yearly increases in their property taxes while also meeting their basic needs for food, medicine and utilities.

AARP policy supports efforts for property tax relief provided in an equitable manner to low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. Circuit breaker programs offer property tax credits or homestead exemptions that decrease as income increases, resulting in a more progressive tax system. Therefore, lower-income households receive greater tax relief than higher-income households.

Targeted relief programs, like the Homestead Tax Credit, keep property taxes manageable and foster housing stability and affordability for both homeowners and renters. Housing stability is essential for long-term health and financial security, therefore, AARP North Dakota supports SB 2136 and encourages the committee to look favorable upon the bill as well.

Thank you.