



House Bill 1012, Economic Assistance – Support  
March 31, 2025

Senate Appropriations, Human Resources Division  
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Chairman Dever and Members of the Committee,

My name is Janelle Moos, Associate State Director of Advocacy with AARP North Dakota. AARP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, nationwide organization with nearly 38 million members. Approximately 82,000 of those members live in North Dakota.

We appreciate this committee's work to dig into issues important to older North Dakotans and this need will continue to grow. Today our population age 50+ is almost 230,000 or 32% and over 50% of those households are age 65 or older. Today in North Dakota over 9 counties have a mean age of over 50 and a number of others are right on their heels

In 2023, AARP conducted a survey of 703 people over 45 in North Dakota asking them how they feel about issues such as health care, financial security, energy costs, caregiving, livable communities and more. North Dakotans provided three primary takeaways including: 1- retirement is on their minds, 2- affordable healthcare is important to them and 3- [They want to remain independent and age in place \(click to watch discussion\)](#). The third takeaway relates directly to programs and funding outlined in HB 1012- Aging and Adult Services Division including:

- Over half of respondents rated their communities as good or very good places to live.
- Seven in ten would prefer to receive care for themselves or a loved one at home.
- 65% are either currently providing or have provided care in the past to an adult relative or friend.
- 79% want to have services available to age in place
- 78% want to say in their home as they age
- 81% told us that getting places independently is important

SNAP is an important program that ensures older adults and families get the nutrition needed. It is an especially important program for Americans over 50 because many face challenges to employment, live on fixed incomes, live alone, and have limited financial resources to pay for necessities like food, housing, and essential medicine. To people struggling to put food on the table, hunger is not a political issue, it is a daily reality. SNAP is a vital lifeline that feeds 23,840 North Dakota households. 35% of those recipients are either elderly or disabled. Also remember, participants generally spend their SNAP dollars locally, soon after receiving them, boosting local economies.

LIHEAP has served as a lifeline for low-income families. As you may know, AARP believe utility issues and rates are a key pocketbook issue. We have intervened in various cases in front of the North Dakota Public Service Commission on behalf of older adults and consumers and know the struggle of families to afford their utility payments. Having a safety net for families especially in our climate is not only the right thing it is the moral thing to do.

Thank you for your work on this important budget that provides the resources and support that allows so many North Dakotans to live and age in their homes and communities.