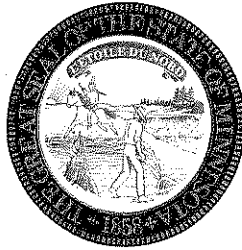


**Rod Hamilton**  
State Representative

District 22B  
Cottonwood, Jackson and Nobles  
Counties



# Minnesota House of Representatives

**COMMITTEES:** AGRICULTURE, RURAL ECONOMIES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AGRICULTURE, RURAL ECONOMIES AND VETERANS AFFAIRS FINANCE DIVISION  
EDUCATION FINANCE AND ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS FINANCE DIVISION  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Tim Pawlenty  
Governor State of Minnesota  
Room 130 State Capitol  
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 29, 2010

Dear Governor Pawlenty,

Minnesota Republicans have always believed that we must ensure the stability of core government services. Chief among the core areas of government is the safety and quality of life for Minnesotans with disabilities, our elders and the providers who care for them.

For example, the level of rate increases (COLAs) in the early part of the decade was a result of Republican leadership. And during the recent deficit years, it was Republicans who ensured that cuts to group homes, other home and community based services (such as in-home care, adult day programs and housing services) and nursing homes were held to a minimum. Last year continuing care providers sustained a number of cuts that, collectively, disproportionately targeted vulnerable people and their caregivers. But it was because of our work that we were able to reduce the rate cut to continuing care providers and caregivers.

It's a record we are proud of and must sustain.

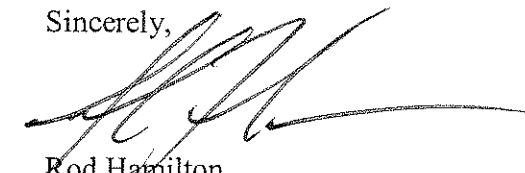
This year we face brutally difficult choices. But we need to do all we can to honor our priorities by ensuring the stability of core services for Minnesotans with disabilities and the elderly. We must do all we can to eliminate another rate cut to group homes, day programs and nursing homes.




We believe the February forecast provides an opportunity to buy-back cuts to these providers. Your budget was based on the November forecast's deficit \$1.2 billion deficit and included a 2.5% cut – \$37.3 million – to home and community-based services for the disabled and elderly and nursing homes. The February forecast shows the forecast deficit down by \$209 million to \$994 million. We believe that some of the \$209 million should be used to buy back the \$37.3 million cut to these services.

Therefore, we the undersigned ask you to join us in working to buy back the rate reduction to the frail elderly and people with disabilities.


Sincerely,




Rod Hamilton  
State Representative - 22B



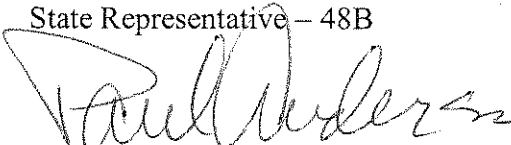
Kurt Zellers  
State Representative – 32B  
Minority Leader




Jim Abler  
State Representative – 48B



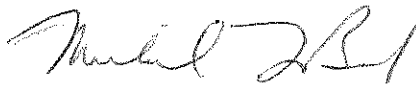
Bruce Anderson  
State Representative – 19A



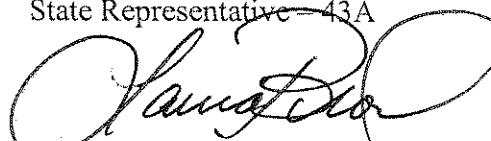
Paul Anderson  
State Representative – 13A



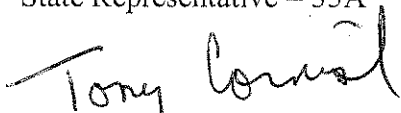
Sarah Anderson  
State Representative – 43A



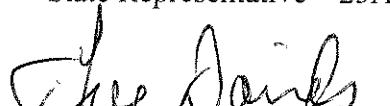
Mike Beard  
State Representative – 35A




Laura Brod  
State Representative – 25A




Tony Cornish  
State Representative – 24B



Greg Davids  
State Representative – 31B



Matt Dean  
State Representative – 52B



Randy Demmer  
State Representative – 29A

Bob Dettmer  
State Representative - 52A

Keith Downey  
State Representative - 41A

Rob Eastlund  
State Representative - 17A

Pat Garofalo  
State Representative - 36B

Bob Gunther  
State Representative - 24A

Tim Kelly  
State Representative - 28A

Jenifer Loon  
State Representative - 42B

Doug Magnus  
State Representative - 22A

Denny McNamara  
State Representative - 57B

Bud Nornes  
State Representative - 10A

Connie Doepke  
State Representative - 33B

Steve Drazkowski  
State Representative - 28B

Tom Emmer  
State Representative - 19B

Steve Gottwalt  
State Representative - 15A

Larry Howes  
State Representative - 4B

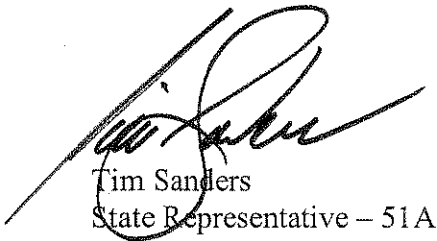
Mary Kiffmeyer  
State Representative - 16B

Tara Mack  
State Representative - 37A

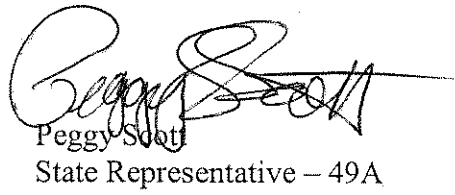
Carol McFarlane  
State Representative - 52A

Mark Murdock  
State Representative - 10B

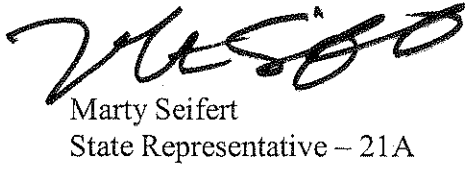
Joyce Peppin  
State Representative - 32A



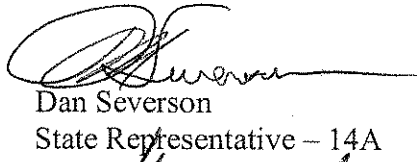
Tim Sanders  
State Representative – 51A



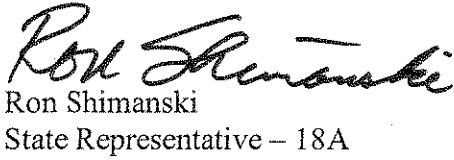
Peggy Scott  
State Representative – 49A



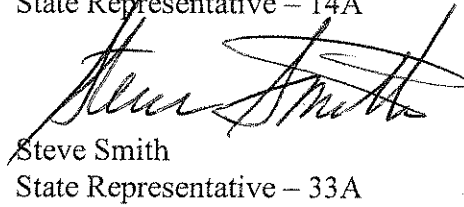
Marty Seifert  
State Representative – 21A



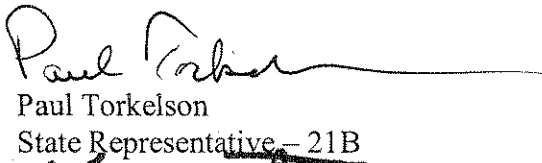
Dan Severson  
State Representative – 14A



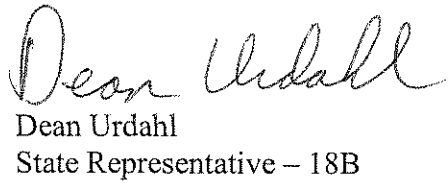
Ron Shimanski  
State Representative – 18A



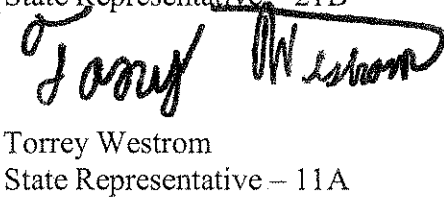
Steve Smith  
State Representative – 33A



Paul Torkelson  
State Representative – 21B



Dean Urdahl  
State Representative – 18B



Torrey Westrom  
State Representative – 11A

Morrie Lanning  
State Representative – 9A

Paul Kohls  
State Representative – 34A