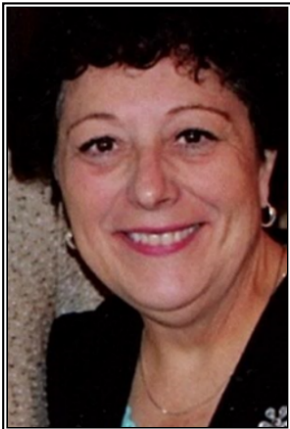


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Senior Caucus News Blast February 2025



“By the way with Kay...”

Sad? Mad? I KNOW you are trying to figure out what to do. We all are.

I’ve added a section on “CALL TO ACTION” and I’m asking you as individuals and as Chapters to “make some noise.” We have over 1000 members statewide and more to come. This is enough to make

a difference. Check the *Call to Action* section of this eblast for recommendations for each of us and all of us to do.

If each Senior Caucus member called, emailed, and/or postal mailed to our representatives once or twice a week or even once or twice a month, this is 4,000 to 8,000 letters/calls a month. This will make an impact.

I'm reminded of the poem "First they came for."

- First they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
- Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.
- Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
- Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

—Martin Niemöller

Let' speak out. Let's make a difference.

I've added *Call to Action* items and a template below for a sample email or postal letter or even a phone call to your legislator. I've added our democratic congressional representatives for you and you should also send these letters to republican representatives too – they are your representatives too.

I've added the *Economic Black Out Day* information that the Senior Caucus supports. If you are able, don't buy anything on February 28 from the companies below.

Please participate in the *Economic Black Out Day* if you can.

I'm upset. You are upset. Let's make a difference. Let's make some noise!!

Be safe, have fun, be healthy!
Always yours,

Kay

Kay C. Hendrikson, PhD
Chair, DFL Senior Caucus.
February 2025

“We yearn for a return to an America where we work together and look out for each other... And together, we too will build a country that is more secure and more just, more equal, and more free.”

Barack Obama, 2024 DNC Convention



CALL TO ACTION!

Please participate in the Economic black out day if you can.

Join the DFL Senior Caucus in our support of the Nationwide Economic Boycott on Friday, February 28th! Do not buy anything from companies that have abandoned their commitment to DEI programs such as Amazon, Meta, Walmart, Best Buy, and Target.

Companies that continue their commitment to DEI programs include: Costco, Apple, Delta, Ben & Jerry's, Sephora and Proctor & Gamble.

Let's let the administration and the companies that support attacks on diversity feel our impact on their profit margin by buying NOTHING on February 28th!

ISSUES TO WRITE TO LEGISLATORS ABOUT

Federal:

- Tell congress to extend Medicare reimbursement for telehealth
- Effect of cuts – Older Americans Act, Medicaid expansion, DEI and LGBTQ protections
- Possible elimination of Dept of Education, USAID, WHO membership

Minnesota:

- Disappearance of rural hospitals, rural health care
- Age-Friendly provision not in current budget proposal
- Legacy bill, giving priority to seniors for services
- Housing bill, providing support services for seniors staying in homes

LEGISLATORS TO CONTACT:

Call, email, and write postal letters. Doesn't matter if they are democrats or republicans. If you are unhappy about what is going on, they represent you.

If all 1000 Senior Caucus members write them once or twice a week or a month, they will get the message. This is why we are a state wide team – to make a difference!!

<https://www.house.gov/representatives#state-minnesota>

Find your local legislators here: <https://ballotpedia.org/Minnesota>

For lots of election information: <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/>

Amy Klobuchar:

<https://www.klobuchar.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/email-amy>

Tina Smith: <https://www.smith.senate.gov/share-your-opinion/>

Betty McCollum: <https://mccollum.house.gov/contact/email>

SAMPLE LETTER TO LEGISLATOR

Dear Representative/Senator <Name>,

I am your constituent in <City>. I am writing to express my concerns about <issue, include bill number if relevant>. I'm concerned that <negative outcome>. {repeat for additional outcomes but keep it brief – no more than 3}.

<Describe relevant expertise you have on the issue and/or the personal impact of the issue.>

<Describe support you've provided: voting, donating, campaign volunteer>

I understand that being in the minority right now, Democrats are limited in our ability to block these disastrous appointments/changes. I want you to know that I am a loyal voter and strongly support any efforts you make to prevent the dismantling of services that are critical to Minnesota and the country. Feel free to contact me for more information.

<Your signature and your contact information>

POLITICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- Let's help improve school board elections: the School Integrity Project www.schoolboardintegrityproject.org, your local indivisible chapter indivisible.org, and your local Education Minnesota educationminnesota.org
- Update on the Task Force on Aging - Representative Ginny Klevom; rep.ginny.klevorn@house.mn.gov, is the chair of that task force. The Task Force report is due in March 2025. It is a bi-

partisan report so contact your representative DFL or GOP and urge them to pass it.

- Senior Caucus endorsed: DFL candidate, David Gottfried, to fill the vacant seat in 40B.
-

Membership!

MEMBERSHIP

Our strength lies in more members and more voices, actively and loudly supporting senior issues!

- **Wahoo!** We now have 1086 members on the roster. We continue the Recruitment Campaign for chapters as the chapter requests it. Currently 3 chapters are in recruitment phase.
 - Reminder that all members must re-register every year. Go to any Senior Caucus site and the [Join/Renew button](#). Don't forget we must have an address.
 - NOTE: When people join, they become members of the DFL Senior Caucus as a whole (not a specific chapter!). You may indicate which chapter you would like to attend most of the time, but you can attend any chapter meetings. People can be members of multiple chapters and do not have to live in the area of the chapter.
 - The membership committee is looking for folks who are willing to help with the "New Member Welcome" plan. We still need folks who will make phone calls, work on "New Member Welcome", and help develop new chapters. The next meeting is Monday, February 24th at 7:30 via Zoom. If you would like to join the Membership committee contact Jennifer Willette at the dflseniors.org_email address.
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SAVE THE DATE

Put these on your calendar!

Next up is our annual event **Day on the Hill!!**

Invite your local legislator to come and present to our board members. Lady Slipper Room in the Centennial Building in St Paul. This is an in person meeting but as we get closer we will try to make it a hybrid.

Space is limited please RSVP to Don Slaten and MaryAnn VanDeVusse at dflseniors@gmail.org

Senior Caucus Events for 2025

- Event: Day on the Hill: April 15
- Event: Annual Membership Meeting: Saturday, June 14
- Event: Summer Social: July 12, hosted by Duluth Chapter
- Event: State Fair hosted by Minneapolis Chapter:
 - Monday, August 25, and
 - Thursday, August 28
- Event: Gala: date TBD, Oct 5 or Oct 12 hosted by South Metro Chapter

DFL Senior Caucus Book Club

Once a month (third Monday at 11:00am, using Zoom), we discuss a book on politics, history, and/or science to help us understand our current political climate. More information is available on



the dflseniors.org website.

Next book club Zoom meeting:

March 17: *The Scheme: How the Right Wing Used Dark Money to Capture the Supreme Court*
by Sheldon Whitehouse and Jennifer Mueller

We would love to have you join us. For more info: dflseniors@gmail.com

STATEWIDE SENIOR CAUCUS CONTACT INFO

Contact the Senior Caucus at dflseniors@gmail.com

Board Officers: Chair, Kay Hendrikson, Vice Chair Don Slaten, Treasurer, Nancy Stroessner, Secretary, Janet Conn, Membership Director, Jennifer Willette, Technology Chair: Bill Middlecamp

At Large Directors: Tim Bonham, John Corcoran, Alston Dutchin, Roger Gerhke, Gary Hansen, Marie Hauser, Linda Hopkins, Dwayne King, Jean Lee, Joe Mullery, Pamela Parker, Darrell Paulsen, Jim Reed, Tony Scallon, Cindy Spellman **Past Chair:** Don Bye

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