U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Office for Civil Rights  
Attention: Section 1557 NPRM, RIN 0945-AA11  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 509F  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201  

Secretary Alex M. Azar II,  

The Minnesota Leadership Council on Aging (MNLCOA) **strongly opposes** the US Department of Health and Human Services proposal to eliminate certain anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and limited English proficiency in health and long-term services and support (LTSS) settings.

It is well documented LGBT elders and elders with limited English proficiency experience significant health, economic and social disparities in comparison to their peers. Until Congress acts to amend pre-existing civil rights statutes, legislation that includes protections for these specific vulnerable elders such as the Older Americans Act is not duplicative policy. We believe the elimination will create new financial burdens for states and providers to cover unfunded costs (such as language translation) to serve elders.

MNLCOA is a champion, thought leader and educator that advances positive systems change to create communities that support aging with dignity across the lifespan. We support positive systems and policy change for older adults and family caregivers.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Rajean P. Moone, PhD  
Executive Director  

CC: Minnesota Congressional Delegation