

Senator Rich Draheim
Senate District 22
2225 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
Phone: (651) 296-5558
sen.rich.draheim@mnsenate.gov



Senate

Dear Commissioners,

As you know, Minnesota has faced a serious fraud challenge for several years, and the discussion around it has intensified over the past year. There is widespread agreement among Democrats, Republicans, and the Governor that we need stronger fraud prevention, better oversight, and greater accountability. We all have a role to play in improving these areas, from the executive branch to the Legislature. While lawmakers set policy through statutes, agency commissioners and staff shape how those programs operate day-to-day through rulemaking, implementation, and management.

This will be my final session, as I am not seeking reelection. I am asking for this information not to score political points, but because I bring a business perspective. I have managed and owned businesses since I was 16, and in the private sector, the level of fraud we are seeing would be unsustainable. Government is different because we can raise revenue through taxes, but as programs expand to serve more vulnerable Minnesotans, we have to be diligent stewards of taxpayer dollars. Protecting those funds safeguards the programs themselves, the people who rely on them, and the honest providers who deliver care.

I am writing to better understand the steps your agency has taken and where additional support may be needed. This is not about assigning blame but about gathering practical insights so the Legislature can help close gaps and build on progress during this session.

To that end, I respectfully request responses to the following questions within the next 10 business days (by March 18, 2026), focusing on actions since January 1, 2025:

- What new policies, procedures, or internal controls has your agency implemented to prevent fraud in programs that distribute public funds?
- What new fraud awareness or prevention training has your agency provided to managers overseeing grant-funded or publicly distributed programs?
- What new fraud awareness or prevention training has your agency provided to frontline employees who work directly with grants, claims, or payments?
- How has your agency measured improvements in fraud detection and prevention (for example, through reduced improper payments, increased recoveries, lower error rates, or other key metrics)? What specific changes in those measures have you seen?
- Are there legislative or statutory changes the Legislature could pursue this year to remove barriers or provide tools that would help your agency more effectively prevent or address fraud?

Senator Rich Draheim
Senate District 22
2225 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206
Phone: (651) 296-5558
sen.rich.draheim@mnsenate.gov



Senate

- What new or upgraded technology, data systems, or analytics tools would most help your agency identify and prevent future fraud risks?
- When your agency refers suspected fraud cases for criminal prosecution to the Attorney General's Office or other law enforcement partners, what has been your experience with the process, timelines, outcomes, and any challenges?
- What has been your agency's experience collaborating with federal partners on fraud investigations or recovery efforts, including any obstacles or successes?
- If your agency works with or has an internal Office of Inspector General, has it proven sufficient for investigating and addressing fraud? If not, what additional resources, authority, or structure would strengthen its effectiveness?
- How has your agency balanced fraud prevention measures with maintaining timely access to services for eligible recipients and support for legitimate providers?

My aim is to gain a clear picture of the cultural, operational, and technological steps your agency has taken, as well as any remaining hurdles. This will help the Legislature craft targeted solutions, whether through funding, statutory fixes, or other support, to address shortfalls and strengthen protections.

I appreciate your time in responding. As an outgoing legislator, I see this as part of my responsibility to equip future lawmakers with the information needed to continue this work effectively. By taking an all-hands-on-deck approach, we can protect Minnesota's resources, preserve essential social services, and ensure vulnerable people and honest providers are not harmed by failures to act.

Thank you for your partnership on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rich Draheim". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Senator Rich Draheim
District 22