

To: DFL Senior Caucus
From: Chuck Smith-Dewey
Re: Endorsements Committee
Date: April 28, 2026

Angie Craig's problematic actions

It's time for the senior caucus to face the elephant in the room, so to speak.

America is in crisis. Many government programs and institutions that Americans rely on are being dismantled. We need to thoroughly evaluate our candidates for Congress. We sometimes see our candidates for office through the eyes of adoring fans, or as celebrities. I am not immune to this.

For years I was an Angie Craig super fan/volunteer and very large donor. But there is a point where you have to take a cold hard look at whether what they are doing in Washington, D.C. lives up to the values we treasure back home.

I took that look, and what I found over the past two years are plenty of reasons we should not endorse her campaign for the U.S. Senate.

Three red flags for Seniors

Craig has not been good on senior issues.

Medicare Advantage

In February 2024, I was part of a group from the DFL Senior Caucus South Metro Chapter (including its Chairwoman) which sought a meeting or town hall with Rep. Craig to discuss problems with Medicare Advantage plans. We had more than 30 seniors representing every Senate District in CD2 who wanted to participate.

Advantage plans are private health insurance plans that replace Original Medicare. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) pays these private companies more per MA enrollee than what they spend on each enrollee in Traditional Medicare. There is widespread documentation of denied care and rampant fraud by the companies selling these plans.

Eventually, a half dozen of us were granted a Zoom meeting with staff. After the presentation we provided the script and video testimonials to share with Craig.

We had three asks for the Congresswoman, including that she sign on to a letter with her House colleagues asking for oversight/accountability and reform of Advantage Programs. We also asked for followup on our meeting and a continued dialogue with Craig's office.

We never received a response or feedback from the Congresswoman or her office. However, Rep. McCollum, Rep. Omar and Sen. Tina Smith all signed the letter which we had asked Craig to sign.

TAKEAWAY: Craig has shown no interest in engaging with our senior caucus on Medicare related issues. I texted Craig some months later, after our mutual friend Caren Gallagher had died, asking if she ever saw the presentation. Caren had been scheduled to be on the Zoom with Craig's office, but was too sick from chemotherapy that morning to attend so she recorded a message to be delivered to Craig. (<https://youtu.be/vLq2OGd3D0s?si=pftDYbj3l4L7yc9H>) Craig never answered me about whether she saw it, even when she saw me at a memorial gathering my wife and I set up for Caren's activist friends (at the request of her husband), nor at the family memorial gathering.

Among Minnesota members of Congress, Craig is the second only to Rep. Tom Emmer (the House Whip) in taking contributions from the private health insurance industry which, of course, sells Medicare Advantage plans (SOURCE: <https://healthinsurancetracker.com/>).

Social Security Expansion Act

The DFL Senior Caucus, Rural Caucus and Disability Caucus all support the Social Security Expansion Act, and held two town halls in CD1 and CD2 earlier this year to champion it.

I started asking Craig more than a year ago to cosponsor the legislation, repeating the ask several times throughout the year.

Last August, she attended our South Metro DFL Senior Caucus to campaign for the Senate. After she spoke, I raised my hand and asked her to please repeat what she had told me before the meeting began. She replied by saying that she had co-sponsored the Social Security Expansion Act in previous Congresses, but hadn't this year because she had written her own bill.

I doublechecked the Congressional records as she was speaking, and she had never been a cosponsor of the Social Security Expansion Act, so I asked if she needed to revise her answer. Visibly flustered, she moved on.

Caught in a mistruth, Craig texted me after leaving the meeting that her staff would add her as a cosponsor. The only thing coming out of her own bill has been a press release from her office titled "Rep. Craig Reintroduces Legislation to Eliminate Taxes on Social Security Benefits."

Takeaway: The Trust Fund will be depleted by 2032 which the Social Security Administration says will result in roughly a 25 percent across the board cuts to benefits. Either Craig does not understand what the Expansion Act is, or does not see Social Security as a priority beyond a press release.

Crypto Industry targets seniors

A crypto industry PAC spent more than a million dollars getting Craig re-elected in 2024. The following year Craig and Rep. Tom Emmer were two of the original sponsors of the Digital Asset Market Clarity Act of 2025, which attempts to offer the industry legitimacy to gain trust.

Last August (2025), on the opening day of the Minnesota State Fair, Angie Craig was the only Democrat speaking at an invitation-only Jackson Hole event where one journalist stated she "warmed up the crowd for Eric Trump, who spoke just after her."

Craig and the four GOP Members of Congress from Minnesota all receive an “A” rating from the crypto industry. Klobuchar, Smith, McCollum, Omar, Morrison and Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan all received an “F” (<https://www.standwithcrypto.org/politicians?search=Minnesota>)

Takeaway: In March of 2026, a crypto industry PAC spent \$10 million dollars in an attempt to keep the Illinois Lt. Governor from winning the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate. Will we see a replay in Minnesota? (<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/cryptocurrency-and-ai-industries-tested-their-influence-in-illinois-it-didnt-go-well>)

Crypto scams stole \$5.6 billion from Americans last year, mostly from older people

www.nbcnews.com/tech/security/crypto-scams-stole-56-billion-americans-last-year-mostly-older-people-rcna170410

Cryptocurrency Scams Are Targeting the Elderly: What You Need to Know

www.mass.gov/news/cryptocurrency-scams-are-targeting-the-elderly-what-you-need-to-know

Minnesota's Angie Craig Lines Up With Crypto at GOP-Heavy Conference

www.dropsitenews.com/p/minnesotas-angie-craig-crypto-midterms

A crypto PAC is one of Minnesota's biggest election spenders

www.axios.com/local/twin-cities/2024/10/15/fairshake-crypto-spending-minnesota-campaign-angie-craig

Conclusion

Of course, seniors are also affected by all the other issues that unite all Americans. The ones above are just a few examples of the times she has sided with Minnesota's four GOP Members of Congress.

There are other examples of her disloyalty to other Democrats such as her praising Rep. Brad Finstad on stage at FarmFest 2024 and saying how much she was looking forward to continuing to work with him after the next election; his DFL opponent Rachel Bohman was onstage with them at the time.

There was also the fundraiser where she bragged about her record of voting against President Biden's priorities and being proud of her paid agricultural liaison, who is a MAGA Republican who owned a necktie signed by President Trump.

She was one of just 22 Democrats who voted to censure Rep. Rashida Tlaib, the only Palestinian-American in Congress, for her comments about Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government regarding the conflict with Palestine. (www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-resolution/845)

She was one of just 12 Democrats who sided with the GOP majority to reallocate billions from the IRS budget to supply aid to Israel. (<https://www.congress.gov/votes/house/118-1/577>)

Please note that in her political career she raised more than \$800K from AIPAC. (<https://www.minnpost.com/national/washington/2026/04/as-democrats-debate-their-relationship-with-israel-aipac-donations-to-angie-craig-complicate-her-campaign/>)

As a former supporter and friend of Angie Craig, I sincerely hope that the endorsement committee takes all of this into account and does not recommend her for the U.S. Senate.