

Review comment -1

This manuscript explores the relationship between life expectancy and social welfare policy environments, a topic that is both highly relevant and timely given global aging trends, health disparities, and ongoing transformations in welfare states. As such, it holds clear significance for both academic scholarship and policy development. However, the current version relies largely on descriptive synthesis and does not yet provide a sufficiently strong analytical or theoretical contribution. Enhancing the conceptual framework and more clearly articulating the manuscript's original contribution would substantially improve its scholarly impact.

The abstract offers a general overview of the topic; however, it lacks the level of comprehensiveness expected for a review article. In its current form, the research objective is presented too broadly and would benefit from clearer specification. In addition, the methodology—such as the type of review conducted, selection criteria, and databases used—is not sufficiently described. The key findings are conveyed in a vague and largely descriptive manner, and the manuscript's contribution as well as its policy implications are not clearly articulated. To improve clarity and rigor, the abstract should explicitly present the specific research aim, outline the review methodology (e.g., narrative or systematic approach, including inclusion criteria), summarize the main findings or patterns identified, and clearly state the theoretical and policy implications.

The introduction highlights the importance of the topic but lacks a clearly defined research question and objective; it should more explicitly identify the research gap and purpose. The literature review is largely descriptive and list-like, and would benefit from a more systematic organization (e.g., by country or welfare regime) and greater emphasis on comparison, synthesis, and identification of key patterns and gaps. The discussion provides policy implications but needs stronger theoretical grounding, including links to frameworks such as welfare regime theory and clearer explanation of underlying mechanisms. The conclusion mainly summarizes the content and should more clearly state the manuscript's contributions and offer actionable policy recommendations.

While the references are relevant, they are not sufficiently recent or comprehensive; incorporating more up-to-date studies, including post-COVID trends and international comparative research, would strengthen the manuscript.

This manuscript addresses an important and policy-relevant topic but requires substantial revision. It remains largely descriptive, lacking analytical depth, theoretical integration, and clear original contribution. The review methodology is not clearly specified (e.g., data sources, inclusion criteria, type of review), limiting transparency and rigor. The theoretical framing is weak and would benefit from established frameworks such as welfare regime theory.

The literature review is fragmented and should be reorganized into a more systematic synthesis. The abstract needs to better reflect objectives, methods, and key findings. The discussion does not clearly articulate contributions or policy implications, and the

references lack sufficient recent studies. Finally, while understandable, the English requires improvement in academic tone and coherence.