



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 27, 2025

The Honorable Tina Liebling, Co-Chair  
Chair  
Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Peggy Scott, Co-Chair  
Ranking Minority Leader  
Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Centennial Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 2781 (Definition of Custodian)

Dear Co-Chairs Liebling and Scott and Members of the Judiciary Finance and Policy Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in support of HF 2781, a bill that modifies the definition of “custodian” for purposes of orders for protection. LSAP is a statewide division of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, providing policy, legislative, and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid statewide. Legal Aid’s clients include Minnesotans who have low incomes, elderly Minnesotans and Minnesotans with disabilities.

LSAP works in coalition with all the domestic violence advocacy organizations in Minnesota in representing and advocating for survivors of domestic violence. Last year, the definition of “custodian” in Minnesota Statutes, section 518B.01, subdivision 2, was put in place to give custodians notice when an order for protection was lifted to address a horrific event. Unfortunately, the amended definition not only unintentionally swept in a far broader swath of individuals than necessary and had the potential to place survivors of violence at risk. HF 2781 amends the definition that was created last session to ensure it reaches those for whom it was intended but is not overbroad. LSAP urges the committee to pass HF 2781.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for HF 2781.

The variety of ways consumers can get duped is breathtaking, from romance scams, to fake charity scams, to imposter scams, to grandparent scams, to lottery scams, to investment scams, to foreclosure relief scams, to debt relief scams, to magazine subscription scams, to money transfer scams, and on and on. The explosion of phishing and online scams has significantly exacerbated the problem.

Sincerely,

Ron Elwood  
Supervising Attorney