



Adult Representation Services

March 14, 2025

The Honorable John Hoffman
Chair, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
211 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55115

The Honorable Jordan Rasmusson
Ranking Minority Leader, Human Services Committee
Minnesota Senate
2409 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55115

Re: In support of SF2522

Dear Chair Hoffman, Ranking Minority Leader Rasmusson, and Committee Members:

I write in support of SF2522, which precludes guardianship as a condition of admission for individuals moving into long term care facilities.

I am an attorney at Hennepin County Adult Representation Services (“ARS”). ARS is a Hennepin County department that provides independent advocacy to clients experiencing poverty in civil matters where they are entitled to an attorney, which includes representing persons subject to a Guardianship and Conservatorship

ARS is the only county-funded law firm in the State of Minnesota that provides exclusive representation for respondents in Guardianship and Conservatorship matters. ARS does not provide representation to petitioners, family members, or third parties involved in adult guardianship matters. We do not represent professional or private guardians. Our interest is singularly to advocate for adequate protections for our clients which safeguard their rights and dignity.

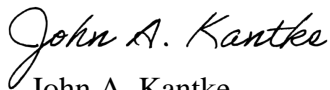
Guardianship is a drastic tool which completely removes civil liberties from an individual and re-assigns them to another individual or entity. Under current Minnesota law guardianship must only be sought as a last resort, to be granted after all other alternatives to guardianship have been exhausted. Requiring a guardianship as a condition of admission to a long term care facility does not allow vulnerable individuals and their supporters the opportunity to seek less restrictive alternatives to guardianship. Just as importantly, the admission requirement targets individuals at a time when fighting against an unnecessary guardianship could mean being denied the very care they need.

The admission requirement also unnecessarily delays our client's admission into care facilities (guardianships take two to three months to establish), while simultaneously creating backlogs of individuals at hospitals, transitional care units, etc., waiting to be discharged. At its worst, an admission requirement discriminates against individuals in medical need, preventing them from accessing the care and housing they require.

SF2522 ensures that some of the most vulnerable in our community are protected by preventing long term care providers from requiring guardianship as a condition of admission. For these reasons, I respectfully request that you support SF2522.

Very truly yours,

ADULT REPRESENTATION SERVICES

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Kantke". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

John A. Kantke

Senior Attorney

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