



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 23, 2025

The Honorable Ron Latz  
Chair, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
3105 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Warren Limmer  
Ranking Minority Leader, Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
Minnesota Senate  
2221 Minnesota Senate Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 2146 (Petition for OFP Against Exploitation of a Vulnerable Adult)

Dear Chair Latz, Ranking Minority Leader Limmer and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in support SF 2146 and we write to offer our support and an observations. 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. We believe the benefits this proposal provides are numerous.

It is estimated that one in 20 elders suffer from financial exploitation.<sup>1</sup> There is not currently a legal mechanism easily usable to force an exploiter to cease contact with an exploited elder where the level of harm does not rise to domestic violence or harassment where the abuser is not a spouse or family member. SF 2146 creates a clear mechanism that would allow our attorneys to petition on behalf of the elder directly or communicate with a fiduciary or surrogate decision maker.

Moreover, the automatic waiver of filing fees and statutory mandate for the court to assist with the filing process, important features of SF 2146, will aid those who have not called our office to initiate the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for SF 2146, which seeks to help protect Minnesota's vulnerable adults from financial exploitation.

Sincerely,

Ron Elwood  
Supervising Attorney

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<sup>1</sup> Stuart Bear, *Protect Vulnerable Adults from Financial Exploitation*, 45 EST. PLAN. 21, 22 (2018).