

## **Estate & Elder Law Services**

**Volunteers of America – Minnesota**

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### **Attorneys:**

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RE:           Guardianship Modernization Legislation, letter of support

To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of Estate & Elder Law Services, I am writing today to express support for the legislative proposal to modernize Minnesota's guardianship statute.

It has been more than a decade since this statute was updated. In late 2017, a committee was formed to examine the guardianship and conservatorship laws in Minnesota, analyze recommendations made by the Uniform Law Commission, and draft policy revisions to reflect changes in guardianship and conservatorship practice.

Our organization was a member of this diverse and robust committee that drafted the proposed changes. Members of this committee came from the Minnesota State Bar Elder Law Section, the Elder Justice Center, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, the Minnesota Disability Law Center, The Arc Minnesota, representatives from various state agencies, private attorneys, and other advocates for persons subject to guardianship and conservatorship.

It is imperative that Minnesota's legislature adopt the changes recommended by this committee in order to change culture and practice in our community – to move toward an expectation of autonomy, expand less restrictive alternatives to guardianship and conservatorship, and ensure that individuals with disabilities, those experiencing mental health challenges, and older adults retain their rights while maximizing self-determination.

Again, on behalf of Estate & Elder Law Services please accept this as our formal statement of support for the proposed changes to modernize Minnesota's guardianship statute during the upcoming 2020 legislative session.

Very truly yours,

ESTATE & ELDER LAW SERVICES



John A. Kantke  
Supervising Attorney