

Legal Services Advocacy Project Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid 2324 University Avenue, Suite 101 St. Paul, MN 55114 651-842-6909

May 1, 2020

The Honorable Laurie Halverson Chair Commerce Committee Minnesota House of Representatives 503 State Office Building St Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Zack Stephenson Vice Chair Commerce Committee Minnesota House of Representatives 371 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55115 The Honorable Tim O'Driscoll Republican Lead Commerce Committee Minnesota House of Representatives 237 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: SF 3800 (HF 3904) – Money Transmitters Bill

Dear Chair Halverson, Vice Chair Stephenson, Republican Lead O'Driscoll, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in support of SF 3008 (HF 3904). This bill removes an absolute requirement to transmit funds within five days and instead builds in a few reasonable exceptions, and in particular where there is a reasonable suspicion that the transmission is fraudulent.

Legal Aid's attorneys, unfortunately, see cases of financial exploitation of our clients, who include new Americans and elders. It is frequently difficult, if not impossible, to recover funds fraudulently acquired by scammers. The flexible brakes that this bill puts on a suspected fraudulent transmission make sense and can help avoid financial abuse of and problems for Minnesotans who are duped by fraudsters.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer Legal Aid's perspective on SF 3800 (HF3904).

Sincerely,

Ron Elwood

Supervising Attorney

Ron Elward

cc: Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn