



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 21, 2026

The Honorable Peggy Scott
Co-Chair, Judiciary Fin. and Civil Law Comm.
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Tina Liebling
Co-Chair, Judiciary Fin. and Civil Law Comm.
Minnesota House of Representatives
5th Floor, Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 4293

Dear Chair Scott, Chair Liebling, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in support of HF 4293. LSAP provides legislative and administrative policy advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients, who include low-income Minnesotans, Minnesotans with disabilities, and elder Minnesotans statewide.

This amendment to Minnesota Statutes, section 518.17 modernizes the language by incorporating "parenting time" into the statute. Further this change makes it clear that disagreement over parenting time, parenting schedules, or whether to grant sole custody does not, in and of itself, constitute an inability to coparent. In other words, just because parents cannot agree on these things does not mean that they cannot coparent. Other factors need to be present to grant sole custody to either party.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our support HF 4293. We urge the committee to advance the bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ron Elwood". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Staff Attorney
Legal Services Advocacy Project