



Legal Services Advocacy Project

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Kelly Moller
Co-Chair, Pub. Safety Fin. & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Paul Novotny
Co-Chair, Pub. Safety Fin. & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 3465

Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and Members of the Public Safety Finance & Policy Committee:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in strong support of HF 3465, which provides for enhanced penalties for theft from a vulnerable adult. LSAP provides policy, legislative, and administrative advocacy on behalf of Legal Aid's clients, including low-income Minnesotans, Minnesotans with disabilities, and elder Minnesotans. Legal Aid's Senior Law Project has unfortunately seen too many instances of elder abuse, including financial abuse, which encompasses theft.

Beyond the financial loss and the economic consequences that brings, theft from a vulnerable adult can leave the victim experiencing "emotional or behavioral reactions such as shock, anger, self-blame, depressive symptoms, anxiety, and all-cause posttraumatic stress disorder."¹ Enhanced penalties hold the perpetrator of this egregious conduct more accountable for their despicable actions and hopefully will add a deterrent factor to prevent more occurrences of the abusive practice of elder theft in the future.

LSAP urges the committee to support HF 3465.

Sincerely

Supervising Attorney

¹ Nguyen AL, Mosqueda L, Windisch N, Weissberger G, Axelrod J, Han SD. *Perceived Types, Causes, and Consequences of Financial Exploitation: Narratives From Older Adults*. J GERONTOL B PSYCHOL SCI SOC SCI. 2021 APR 23;76(5):996-1004. (citing (Acierno et al., 2019; Beach et al., 2010; Coluccia et al., 2020; Weissberger et al., 2020)).