

Mary Szondy, Attorney at Law, LLC

March 4, 2024

Representative Ginny Klevorn, Chair
State and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee

Re: ***HF 3483: Guardian Immunity***

Dear Chair Klevorn and Committee Members,

My name is Mary Szondy. I'm a practicing attorney pretty much exclusively in the area of guardianship and conservatorship for more than 19 years. Prior to becoming a practicing attorney, I was a licensed social worker, working (at the Courage Center) with brain injured residents receiving rehabilitation, and later an Alzheimer's unit in a nursing home. In total, I have more than 30 years of experience working with people who are elderly and/or disabled.

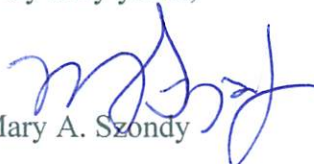
I oppose HF 3483 for many reasons. First and foremost, am concerned as to how quickly this process has been pushed through various committees. I attended the hearing before the Judiciary, Finance and Civil Law Committee on February 22, but I was unable to be heard due to time constraints. There were many false statements made by those who support this bill. The most concerning assertion is that this is an EMERGENCY. I vehemently disagree. Yelling FIRE when there is no fire is not only disingenuous, but also a dangerous strategy. This bill – even with the proposed amendments – will have a huge impact on guardians to the point where I believe even family members will no longer want to take on the responsibility of serving as a guardian for their loved one.

I do not represent professional guardians. I represent parents, siblings and spouses who step up to the plate to become decision makers for their loved ones. There are some measures currently in place (the Guardian complaint line, MAARC reports, etc.) [Minnesota Judicial Branch - Guardianship](#) | [Minnesota Judicial Branch \(mncourts.gov\)](#) [Vulnerable Adults / Minnesota Board on Aging \(MBA\) \(mn.gov\)](#)

IF the language in the statute does need to be tweaked, it should not be done under the guise that there is a fire. Please do not be fooled by this assertion. I urge you to create a task force to research this issue in more depth. You must hear from all the stakeholders.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. I wish I could attend the hearing tomorrow, but I will be in Court.

Very truly yours,


Mary A. Szondy