



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 21, 2026

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

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

Re: HF 3826

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

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes in support of HF 3826. 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.

Among other things, HF 3826 enhances protections against identity theft, unfortunately a growing problem in our society. It describes "forged digital likeness" and adds the use of this technology to the definition of "identity," making the use of this technology illegal identity theft.

While affecting all Minnesotans, identify theft can be especially harmful when perpetrated by an abuser against a survivor of violence, which, sadly, is a significant portion of Legal Aid's client base. Economic abuse is pervasive in situations of domestic violence. According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, it is present in 99% of domestic violence cases. Domestic violence advocates report the use by abusers of online impersonation as a frequent occurrence. This bill recognizes such harmful online impersonation as a violation of identity theft law.

Several years ago, this legislature added protections for survivors of domestic violence against "coerced debt."¹ One way survivors can show they were subject to coerced debt and thus eligible for a remedy is to show they were victims of identity theft. Not only can HF 3826 broaden general protections and add new technological methods to the crime of identity theft, but it can also enhance the ability of survivors of domestic violence to obtain relief from coerced debt. We urge the committee to advance HF 3826.

Sincerely,

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

Supervising Attorney

¹ See Minn. Stat. §§ 332.71 to 332.75.