



Legal Services Advocacy Project

March 7, 2021

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Chair
Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representative
545 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John Petersburg, GOP Lead
Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
217 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Erin Koegel, Vice Chair
Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
445 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 553
ID Cards for Offenders Released from Incarceration

Dear Chair Hornstein, Vice Chair Koegel, Lead Petersburg and Committee Members:

The Legal Services Advocacy Project (LSAP) writes to express its support for HF 553. For the past 44 years, LSAP has provided legislative and administrative policy advocacy as a statewide division of Legal Aid. Legal Aid provides free civil legal services across the state for low-income clients, elder Minnesotans, and Minnesotans with disabilities.

HF 553 provides that a valid Department of Corrections or Federal Bureau of Prisons identification card, with specified information on it, "is an acceptable form of proof of identity in an application for an identification card, instruction permit, or driver's license." This amendment to Minnesota Statutes, section 171.06, subdivision 3, would be of great benefit to Minnesotans who are trying to obtain housing, open a bank account, and otherwise build their lives.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this important legislation. HF 553 can change lives and will benefit the low-income clients that Legal Aid serves and represents. We urge its passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Elwood".

Ron Elwood
Supervising Attorney