

March 10, 2023

To the Senate Higher Education Committee, State of Minnesota

Greetings,

I am writing in support of fully funding of Minitex (in S.F. 2075), which is funded primarily through the Office of Higher Education. The sum sought will make it possible for the residents of Minnesota to retain access to valuable information and services through this network that supports libraries of all types through various programs including resource sharing, database access, and educational support.

The current funding request includes monies to support access statewide to nursing and health databases. Healthcare and education of those seeking to enter healthcare is critical to our state now and in the future. This funding benefits those of us in the Metro area as well as people and aspiring nurses in Greater Minnesota.

While I serve as the dean of the library and information services at Metropolitan State University, I am also writing as a citizen of the State of Minnesota who values education and information access for all of us regardless of our geographic location or financial means. Full support will help us at Metro State continue to serve our students well and the same is true for other academic libraries as well. Without robust libraries and equitable information access, we cannot sustain our robust economy, strong attractiveness to industry, and leadership in many sectors.

Please support this funding.

Sincerely,

Beth E. Clausen

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