



MINNESOTA LIBRARY

ASSOCIATION

RE: SF 2075 Minitex
ATTN: Minnesota Senate Higher Education Committee
Date: March 10, 2023

Honorable Chair Fateh and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Library Association (MLA), we are pleased to write this letter in support of a \$650,000 funding increase to Minitex, an information and resource sharing program of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education and the University of Minnesota Libraries. During a time when there is a critical shortage of healthcare workers, this funding would support statewide health and nursing databases to ensure all nursing students have equal access to the most current research and resources in the nursing field.

Minitex has a long standing history of providing excellent services to students and lifelong learners through schools and libraries of all types across the state of Minnesota. Minitex has been the model for providing equitable access to high quality educational databases regardless of educational affiliation or geographic location through training, education, and resource-sharing. Providing services at the statewide level is also cost-effective and fiscally responsible, with savings helping to alleviate budgetary burdens at individual educational institutions.

Examples of Minitex success through resource-sharing include:

- A 2020 review of the Minnesota Libraries Publishing Project's (MLPP) most-used course materials indicated that just four MLPP projects saved Minnesota students \$26,694 per semester in textbook costs.
- In 2022, the MNLINK online interlibrary loan portal provided Minnesota library patrons with over 480,500 items for lifelong learning and enjoyment.
- In 2022, Minnesota libraries saved an estimated \$4.5M in FY 2022 by purchasing library products and e-resources through Minitex.
- In 2022, Minnesotans found 11.3 million full-text items in ELM, a 7.5% increase over the previous year.

Because of their strong commitment to academic success and equitable access, MLA strongly urges the Senate Higher Education Committee to provide \$650,000 in additional funding for Minitex, as indicated in SF2075, to continue to serve the lifelong learners of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

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