

MABL

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 380, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 | www.mabl.org

March 22, 2023

Senator Omar Fateh
Chair
3219 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Fateh:

I am writing to ask for your support of Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) and its allies, urging the passing of SF 3005.

MABL is the largest legal affinity group in Minnesota. Founded in 1995, MABL has provided scholarships to law students for nearly twenty-eight years. Scholarships to law students are an important aspect of the pipeline continuum. MABL's scholarship program provides mid-stream assistance while SF 3005 will provide necessary upstream support.

MABL has worked tirelessly to create, sustain, and partner with stakeholders to address a lack of diversity in the legal community. Despite our collective efforts, a lack of diversity in law schools and the legal community persists.

SR 3005 is an essential tool and investment in creating Minnesota law schools and workplaces that embrace our shared commitment to equity, equality and diversity. Diversity in classrooms and workplaces enhances creativity, innovation, decision making, solutions, social justice, and equality, to name just a few.

For the past three years, MABL has co-sponsored a Data Reveal Project that provides information on the state of diversity within Minnesota's legal community. Significant disparities exist within Minnesota's legal community. These disparities are historic and endemic. SF 3005 seeks to build a different model.

SF 3005 is based on the Fannie Angelos Program for Academic Excellence (Angelos Program) at the University of Baltimore Law School. The Angelos Program recruits students attending local

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colleges and universities in Maryland and supports their journey to law school. The Program provides concrete support on all aspects of law school – admissions, LSAT preparation, doctrinal education, and mentoring. The Angelos Program has improved LSAT scores, increased admissions of diverse students, assisted students with academic scholarships, and helped to create a more diverse learning and legal community.

SF 3005 will empower Minnesota to build and sustain a community of diverse law students by providing essential financial and educational support. SF 3005 is an important piece of the pipeline continuum. MABL is positioned to create, sustain, and partner with stakeholders to address the historic lack of access, opportunities, and diversity in our classrooms and workplaces.

We enthusiastically and without reservation support the passage of passage SF 3005.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dana Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dana Mitchell
President
Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers

Signatories to the Letter of Support
(in alphabetical order)

Sharon Sayles Belton

Lisa Brabbit

Associate Dean for External Relations
University of St. Thomas Law School

Sybil Dunlop

Partner
Greene Espel

Dr. Michael Favor

Superintendent
Intermediate School District #917

Don Lewis

Partner
Nilan Johnson Lewis

Rick Petry

Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Mitchell Hamline School of Law

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Stephen Warch

Shareholder
Nilan Johnson Lewis

Brandon Williams

Criminal Justice and Safe Communities Fellow
Minneapolis Foundation

Dr. T. Ansasi Wilson

Director, Center for the Study of Black Life and the Law
Mitchell Hamline School of Law