



March 22, 2023

Senator Bobby Joe Champion  
3405 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Senator Champion,

I am writing to lend support to your bill, Senate File 3005, legislation to provide upstream supports and a better pathway for students from underrepresented and underserved communities to enter the legal profession.

There are significant and persistent disparities within the legal community in Minnesota and this lack of representation in the workforce has dire consequences for our criminal justice system, our economy and our democracy.

Students from underrepresented communities face significant barriers throughout Minnesota's K-12 education system, and these barriers persist in college. We know that to help all students persist in college, supports that recognize these barriers are essential. SF 3005 will connect undergraduates to LSAT preparation, one-on-one academic mentoring, individual "whole life" support, and career counseling.

The University of St. Thomas School of Law has a unique mission founded on the convictions of diversity, community, service and inclusiveness. Our mission drives us to ensure that the St. Thomas Law community fully reflects the greater community and to educate lawyers who recognize the dignity of every human being and understand their professional and ethical responsibility to serve their clients and society.

The Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) has worked to create, sustain, and partner with stakeholders to address the historic lack of access, opportunities, and diversity in our classrooms and workplaces. I commend their work.

Thank you for bringing this legislation forward.

Sincerely,

Robert K. Vischer  
President