



Minnesota
State Bar
Association

600 Nicollet Mall
Suite 380
Minneapolis, MN 55402

February 23, 2023

Re: SF357

Senate Judiciary & Public Safety Committee Members:

The Minnesota State Bar Association (MSBA) is a voluntary professional association representing approximately 13,000 attorneys statewide. The MSBA strongly supports increased funding for civil legal services (CLS).

The state has significant funding responsibility for three primary pieces of the justice system: courts, public defenders, and CLS. It is critically important to properly fund all three areas to keep the system operating smoothly. CLS plays a key role by redirecting meritless cases, resolving disputes outside the court system, and ensuring efficient use of court resources when cases are tried. Collectively, these efforts greatly reduce overall strain on the justice system.

CLS providers help poor and vulnerable Minnesotans access the justice system and protect their most fundamental human needs—safety, shelter, and economic security. The MSBA urges you to support increased funding for CLS, which essential for overcoming barriers to justice in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Lake", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Bryan Lake, MSBA lobbyist