



February 22, 2024

Via E-Mail Delivery

Senator Ron Latz, Chair  
95 University Avenue W  
Senate Building, Rm 3105  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Senator Warren Limmer, Republican Lead  
95 University Avenue W  
Senate Building, Rm 2221  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and Lead Limmer:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for SF 3712 (Latz). I am writing on behalf of the Justice Action Network (JAN), the nation's largest bipartisan organization that advocates for improvements to our criminal justice system. JAN works in 15 states across the country and at the federal level, and has been active in Minnesota since 2016.

SF 3712 does the important work of eliminating a \$75 fee charged to public defender clients who, by the nature of their situation, have very limited financial resources. While the fee may be waived at present, this is done inconsistently across the state—and so SF 3712 also has the effect of creating greater cohesiveness between judicial districts.

Even small fees can pile up and become huge financial burdens to a client and their family, resulting in missed payment, interests, and more fees. When fees are unaffordable, they undermine public safety by increasing risks of recidivism, weakening trust in the justice system, and impeding financial stability.

Please feel free to contact our organization's government relations representative, Chas Anderson at [chas@parkstreetpublic.com](mailto:chas@parkstreetpublic.com) with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenny Catchings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jenny" and last name "Catchings" clearly distinguishable.

Jenny Catchings  
State Policy Manager, Justice Action Network