



March 4, 2024

Senate File 3573 (Latz)

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of Minnesotans for Lawsuit Reform (MnFLR) coalition, we write to express our strong opposition to Senate File 3573.

This proposal makes substantial changes to Minnesota's contributory fault and joint liability laws that will negatively impact Minnesotans. Minnesota already has one of the highest annual monetary tort taxes in the country on a per capita basis at -\$1,661.99. This figure ranks us as the 12th highest in the nation, according to a recent study. By passing this bill, that number is only going to go higher. These tort costs are ultimately borne by all consumers, taxpayers, and insurance purchasers.

Among other detrimental modifications to our state's tort system, the bill allows for plaintiffs to recover from parties less at fault than they are. This takes away any incentive a person has to minimize their liability exposure. The public policy of the state of Minnesota should be to encourage more responsibility, not discourage it as this bill does.

If this bill were to pass, a plaintiff could be 50% at fault, and could recover against all defendants, including a defendant found to be 5% at fault, even though each defendant was less at fault than the plaintiff and even though the defendants were not acting in concert or as part of a joint enterprise.

Respectfully, we ask the committee to oppose Senate File 3573.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Breiter, Government Affairs Director
Minnesotans for Lawsuit Reform