



MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER
25 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

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April 17, 2024

Senator Ron Latz, Committee Chair
Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Latz and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

On behalf of the judges and staff of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, I write in support of S.F. 5337, the Judiciary supplemental budget bill.

The proposed funding in this bill would allow the Judicial Branch to increase payment rates for both contract court interpreters and the forensic examiners who provide mental health examinations in civil commitment and criminal proceedings. This funding will help the Judicial Branch continue to find qualified examiners and interpreters to deliver these vital services, and uphold the Constitutional rights of Minnesotans.

In addition, the omnibus funding bill will provide temporary funding to address the rising costs and increasing deficits in the Judicial Branch's Psychological Services program, statewide Jury program, Court Interpreter program, and Cyber Security program. This short-term funding will allow the Judicial Branch to continue meeting the increased need for these services, while giving us time to seek full, permanent funding to address these deficits during the 2025 Legislative Session.

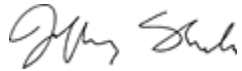
We are also extremely grateful to Chair Latz for including one-time funding for the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative in this bill. If approved, the Judicial Branch will use this funding to provide one-time matching grants to help counties fund critical security and safety improvements in their local courthouses.

While we were disappointed that the budget target provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee was not large enough to fund the entirety of the Judicial Branch's supplement

budget request, we commend Chair Latz and committee members for the prudent and innovative use of their budget allocation.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch thanks the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee for their hard work and support this session. We look forward to continuing to work with the Legislature in 2025 to provide full, permanent funding for these crucial, ongoing funding needs facing our state's judiciary.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Shorba". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeffrey" and last name "Shorba" clearly distinguishable.

Jeffrey Shorba
State Court Administrator