

# MABL

MINNESOTA ASSOCIATION OF BLACK LAWYERS

600 Nicollet Mall, Suite 380, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 | [www.mabl.org](http://www.mabl.org)

January 18, 2023

Representative Kelly Moller  
Public Safety Chair  
509 State Office Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155  
[rep.kelly.moller@house.mn.gov](mailto:rep.kelly.moller@house.mn.gov)

**SENT BY EMAIL**

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Re: Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) Support of HR 28

Dear Rep. Kelly Moller,

Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers (MABL) is a legacy affinity group dedicated to address legal issues affecting the Black community in Minnesota. Our members are Black attorneys who serve the people of Minnesota every day in civil and criminal matters. Among our members are prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, civil rights attorneys and attorneys representing institutions in civil matters.

We are writing in support of passage of Bill HR 28. MABL believes in the fundamental right to vote. The right to vote should not be denied to people who are on probation or parole. Our support of HR 28 is informed by our understanding of the history of voting in the United States. Voting has been used as a weapon to disenfranchise and has been a pernicious tool of de jure discrimination - otherwise known as Jim Crow.

Our nation continues to combat the legacy of racial discrimination. According to the most recent US Census, African Americans are about 7.4% of Minnesota's population. However, according

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to the Sentencing Project Research, 19% of people on probation and 28% of people on supervised release in Minnesota are African American. The racial disparities in probation and supervised release should concern all of us. Passage of HR 28 is an important step forward to address policies that continue to disenfranchise African Americans in Minnesota. If you do not vote, you do not count.

We urge the passage of HR 28 with all deliberate speed.

Respectfully,

Dana Mitchell  
MABL, President  
On behalf of the MABL Board of Directors

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