



March 20, 2023

Chair Zack Stephenson and Members of the House Commerce Committee,

The Minnesotans for Lawsuit Reform (MnFLR) coalition appreciates the opportunity to comment on the delete-everything author's amendment to House File 1459.

Following several weeks of conversations and negotiations with Ron Elwood of Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, MnFLR agreed to the language in the DE amendment.

We appreciate that the amendment narrows the scope of the bill to claims under the Consumer Fraud Act and does not amend Minn. Stat. 8.31. We also appreciate that the amendment clarifies that the allowable plaintiffs under the bill need to be "natural persons," meaning individual consumers, and cannot be businesses or commercial entities.

While MnFLR continues to have concerns that expanding plaintiff's access to attorney's fees and moving away from twenty years of legal precedent related to the "public interest" test in the *Ly v. Nystrom* decision may lead to more costly litigation and risks possible abuse by parties beyond those this bill is aiming to help, we agreed to this amendment to mitigate our even more serious concerns with H.F. 1459, as introduced.

Finally, we would like to thank you and Senator Ron Latz for rescheduling this bill from earlier committee meeting dates, allowing more time for the parties affected by this legislation to continue discussions.

Respectfully,

Doug Grawe, CEO, The Grawe Group  
Board Chair, Minnesota for Lawsuit Reform