



February 29, 2024

**House File 3506 (Stephenson)**

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee,

On behalf of Minnesotans for Lawsuit Reform (MnFLR) coalition, we write to express our strong opposition to House File 3506.

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 House File 3506.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Breiter, Government Affairs Director  
Minnesotans for Lawsuit Reform