



February 29, 2024

House File 3506 (Stephenson)

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

We are writing on behalf of insurers doing business in Minnesota to express our strong opposition to House File 3506.

Minnesota needs a reasonable, fair, and predictable legal environment that does not unfairly and randomly pick winners and losers, as this bill would do. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for Legal Reform has calculated that legal costs statewide already equate to \$2,802 per household. This bill will drive that number higher – at a time when Minnesotans can least afford it.

At a time when climate change is driving up insurance premiums, we need to do the things within our control to keep premiums from moving even higher. Keeping a tort system that does not increase frivolous litigation is one of the biggest steps this legislature can take.

Allowing a plaintiff to recover from a less at fault party, will increase litigation and strain the court system with what was previously considered to be frivolous litigation. This change in bedrock principles will change the actuarial assumptions insurers use in calculating premiums because comparative fault will increase insurance payouts.

This is not the time to put additional burdens on the people who responsibly purchase insurance to protect themselves and others. Respectfully, we ask the committee to oppose House File 3506.

Sincerely,

Aaron Cocking
President/CEO
Insurance Federation of Minnesota

Brooke Kelley
AVP, State Government Relations
APCIA