



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

JEFFREY SHORBA
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April 28, 2024

State Representative Liz Olson, Committee Chair
Ways and Means Committee
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

On behalf of the judges and staff of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, I write in support of H.F. 5245, 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.

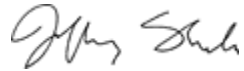
In addition, the omnibus funding bill will provide temporary funding to address the rising costs and increasing deficits in the Judicial Branch's Psychological Services program, statewide Jury program, Court Interpreter program, and Cyber Security program. This short-term funding will allow the Judicial 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 the House Judiciary Committee 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 House Judiciary Committee was not large enough to fund the entirety of the Judicial Branch's supplement budget request, we commend Chair Becker-Finn and committee members for the prudent and innovative use of their budget allocation.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch thanks the House Judiciary 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 cursive script, appearing to read "Jeffrey Shorba".

Jeffrey Shorba
State Court Administrator