






PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Cody Nelson | Anishinabe Legal Services 
Jean Lastine | Central MN Legal Services 
Floyd Pnewski | Judicare of Anoka County
Dori Streit | Legal Aid Service of Northeastern MN 



PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

Anne Hoefgen | Legal Services of Northwest MN 
Drew Schaffer | Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
Jessie Nicholson | Southern MN Regional Legal Services 

April 5, 2021

SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY

Chair Jamie Becker-Finn
559 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Thank You for Funding Civil Legal Services in Minnesota

Dear Chair Becker-Finn:

We write briefly to thank you and all of your colleagues on the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee for recommending the FY2022-2023 budget request advanced by Civil Legal Services to deliver justice to people in the communities we serve.

The funding increase we requested – and which you and your Committee have supported with your recommendation – is necessary for Civil Legal Services to take beginning steps to address the compensation deficit crisis we are experiencing, so that we can sustain the critical legal representation services we deliver statewide. Without more investment in our life-saving work, Minnesotans face the reality of losing the chance at justice that Civil Legal Services currently delivers to 45,000 families and individuals each year.

Equal justice for all is a foundational right in the United States and Minnesota, embodied in the federal and state constitutions. Ensuring that justice is a reality for all Minnesotans is our dream and vision. Your support will help us advance this grand cause of equal justice for all.

We thank you, again, for your work and your leadership in recommending our funding request in this time of crisis for Civil Legal Services statewide. We are appreciative and grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

/s/ Minnesota Legal Services Coalition

Anne Hoefgen, Legal Services of Northwest Minnesota
Jean Lastine, Central Minnesota Legal Services
Cody Nelson, Anishinabe Legal Services
Jessie Nicholson, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services
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