



March 17, 2009

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of our membership, the Minnesota Association for Justice endorses HF 224/SF 70 - legislation that will preserve the integrity and impartiality of Minnesota's courts.

Our members and the clients we represent, want their cases decided by facts and the law, not by campaign contributions and political pressure. We are not interested in a contest to see who can contribute the most to a particular judicial candidate. Minnesota has an excellent judicial system and we want to ensure that legacy continues.

The time to act is now. If we wait to take action until the citizens of this state are subjected to the negative, mud-slinging expensive judicial campaigns witnessed by other states, it will be too late. Once lost, the public's confidence in the judiciary will prove extremely difficult to restore.

Let's leave politics and issue-based campaigning to the legislative and executive branches where it belongs. The judicial selection reform embodied in HF 224/SF 70 features:

- A nonpartisan judicial performance evaluation commission.
- Retention elections with performance evaluation results made available to voters.

Our organization strongly supports these reforms, which preserve voters' ability to remove poor judges from the bench and provide additional information about judges to voters, while lessening the chances of high-priced partisan elections.

We urge you to support HF 224/SF 70.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Bryant  
President  
Minnesota Association for Justice