

President Champion,

Pursuant Article IV, Section 11 of the Minnesota Constitution, we the undersigned submit this letter of protest and dissent in response to the vote on SF5289.

Passage of SF5289 relied on the vote of a Senator who has been charged with a felony count of Burglary in the First Degree. Senator Nicole Mitchell's actions have put the work of the Minnesota Senate under a cloud of public distrust.

According to a criminal complaint describing her arrest, the facts of which were attested to under penalty of perjury to law enforcement, Sen. Mitchell entered her stepmother's home through a basement window in the early morning hours of April 22nd dressed in black, carrying a flashlight covered in a black sock to mute the brightness of the light, and attempting to steal items that did not belong to her. According to the 911 call transcript of the incident, she was allegedly lying on the floor next to her stepmother's bed and startled that individual when she got out of bed: "No, it was completely dark. I tripped over 'em. Ah, he was on the floor next to my bed. He ran downstairs into my basement."

After being apprehended by police on scene, Sen. Mitchell told officers, "I know I did something bad" and "I'm not good at this." These statements of guilt clearly allow a reasonable person to question Sen. Mitchell's judgement.

Since her arrest, Sen. Mitchell has made public statements which contradict those she made to law enforcement. This type of action is contrary to the expectations Minnesotans hold for their public officials.

Since her arrest, residents in her district have begun recall efforts against the Senator, clear evidence that the public expects better from elected leaders. Additionally, a complaint against Sen. Mithcell has been filed with the Office of Lawyers Professional Responsibility to question her fitness to practice law in Minnesota.

Since her arrest, Sen. Mitchell's stepmother has been granted an order for protection due to her stated fears of Sen. Mitchel by the judge presiding over the case.

We protest and dissent against the vote on SF5289 which was adopted by the Senate with a deciding vote being cast by someone clearly unfit for office. We believe it is an abuse of power by both Sen. Mitchell, the Senate Majority Caucus, and its members.

Senator Jim Abeler
Senator Bruce Anderson
Senator Cal Bahr
Senator Julia Coleman
Senator Gary Dahms
Senator Gene Dornink
Senator Rich Draheim
Senator Steve Drazkowski
Senator Zach Duckworth
Senator Justin Eichorn
Senator Robert Farnsworth
Senator Steve Green
Senator Glenn Gruenhagen
Senator Karin Housley
Senator Jeff Howe
Senator John Jasinski
Senator Mark Johnson

Senator Mark Koran
Senator Michael Kreun
Senator Andrew Lang
Senator Bill Lieske
Senator Warren Limmer
Senator Eric Lucero
Senator Andrew Mathews
Senator Jeremy Miller
Senator Carla Nelson
Senator Eric Pratt
Senator Jason Rarick
Senator Jordan Rasmusson
Senator Paul Utke
Senator Bill Weber
Senator Nathan Wesenberg
Senator Torrey Westrom