

MINNESOTA CIVIL REMEDIES ACT

PROTECT PEOPLE OVER GOVERNMENT. END QUALIFIED IMMUNITY.

Being able to **hold government officials accountable** when they violate your rights is essential to a healthy democracy. Yet, many strong cases are thrown out of federal court because of an outdated doctrine called **qualified immunity**, which shields officials even if it is unmistakable that they caused harm.

That's exactly what happened to a construction company owner in northern Minnesota. A county road engineer, angry about a state-awarded contract, detained the company's trucks and drivers for hours, causing serious financial harm.

When the company sued, the case was dismissed — not on the facts, but because **qualified immunity protected the official**.

The Minnesota Civil Remedies Act offers a solution to end these special protections.

If passed, this bill would allow people to sue under the Minnesota Constitution and would explicitly bar the government from using defenses like qualified immunity to dodge civil accountability.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

TELL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

To co-sponsor this critical legislation and protect our civil rights. The Minnesota House Legislature will be meeting beginning in February 2026 to decide what bills to pass this year.



LET YOUR COMMUNITY KNOW

Minnesota doesn't have to accept a system that protects misconduct at the expense of justice. Your voice can help ensure this bill is a priority.



For questions, please contact Emma Pederson at emma@themjc.org or Meagan Forbes at mforbes@ij.org.



PROTECT PEOPLE, NOT GOVERNMENT. END QUALIFIED IMMUNITY.

A healthy democracy holds government accountable when they violate your rights. But today many government officials are shielded from this accountability because of the outdated rule called **qualified immunity**.

Direct Impacts on Minnesotans:

There are times when government employees misuse their power. In 2016, a northern Minnesota construction company owner had their trucks and drivers detained for hours by a rogue county employee. The disruption caused serious financial harm, but when the construction company sued, the case was dismissed because **qualified immunity** shielded the county employee from facing legal consequences for their actions.

The Minnesota Civil Remedies Act eliminates this shield.

If passed, Minnesotans can sue state, local, and federal government officials without qualified immunity protecting the government from legal accountability.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

TELL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

The MN House of Representatives and Senate meet starting in February 2026 to decide what bills to pass this year. Tell them what you think. Find your elected rep here:



LET YOUR COMMUNITY KNOW

Get the word out that MN doesn't have to accept a system that protects government misconduct. Your voice can help ensure this bill is a priority.



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