



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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Date: April 14, 2021
To: Representative Jamie Becker-Finn, Chair, House Judiciary Finance & Civil Law Committee
Re: Opposition to HF 1103 (Thompson), HF 1104 (Thompson), and HF 640 (Gomez)

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and committee members:

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) represents Minnesota's 10,000+ public safety officials who hold active law enforcement licenses in the state of Minnesota. Members include police officers, correctional officers, dispatchers, and firefighters. The MPPOA is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota.

MPPOA is writing to respectively convey our opposition to:

- HF 1103 (Thompson) Duties imposed on peace officers and law enforcement agencies regarding video and audio recordings of deadly force use, and civil remedy provided.
- HF 1104 (Thompson) Peace officer civil liability immunity prohibited
- HF 640 (Gomez): citizen oversight councils established.

Qualified immunity is an essential legal provision for government officials, including law enforcement, which balances the public interest and also helps build trust in police, as officers act in good faith to protect society. It is particularly essential in recruiting and retaining quality police officers.

House File 640 would take a significant step away from local control and move toward a law enforcement police state. Although it would entail local review boards, the character of the board's make-up is essentially mandated, and the required duties and authority exceed what public officials have today. Compliance would be state enforced. Most communities want to control their own law enforcement. Lastly, the suggestion that someone who is often in trouble be given a share of this authority (Sec. 3, subd 3) is nonsensical.

We support improving policing practices and have consistently advocated and supported measures to make policing better and improve our profession. Unfortunately, officers across the country have become targets both on- and off-duty. There is no place for discrimination within our ranks, but there is also no place for hostility toward those who have dedicated their lives to honor their oath of office to protect and serve the public.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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