



Monday, July 20, 2020

**Key Vote Alert: Vote “Yes” on HF1 – Policing Reform**

Dear Members of the Minnesota House and Senate,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across Minnesota, I am writing today to urge a “Yes” vote on final passage of HF1, a bill that would increase accountability and transparency in policing, help change police culture, provide additional de-escalation and crisis response training, and begin to restore trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

**As a “Key Vote”, Americans for Prosperity – Minnesota may include this vote in our end-of-session Legislative Scorecard that will be shared with your constituents.**

At the outset of Minnesota’s first special session in June, Americans for Prosperity-Minnesota [released a letter to lawmakers](#) calling for a fiscally responsible economic recovery, passage of criminal justice and policing reforms, and urging the legislature to reassert its constitutional authority and end the state of emergency. Now, nearly two months since the tragic death of George Floyd as a result of the actions of a Minneapolis police officer, it is imperative that the Legislature respond. Though policy change alone is woefully insufficient, it is also a necessary step in tearing down a pervasive and unacceptable double standard within our society.

This bill makes real progress toward policing reform, including: expanded use of force reporting, duty to intervene, and an independent investigations unit within the BCA for use of force incidents; a ban on chokeholds (unless deadly force is authorized) and a ban on warrior-style training that encourages aggressive conduct; changes to arbitration procedures; additional crisis intervention, de-escalation, and mental illness crisis training; peer counseling and critical incident stress management services for police officers; and an expansion of POST board membership and creation of new advisory council on ensuring police excellence and improving community relations.

Although this is an important first step, ongoing work is needed beyond policing to ensure our justice system respects equal justice for every Minnesotan. We urge the legislature to continue working to address structural barriers to good policing such as asset forfeiture, qualified immunity, drivers’ license suspensions, and an overemphasis on ticketing or arrest numbers, and continue to examine the role union contract and collective bargaining protections have played in creating barriers to holding bad actors accountable. Lawmakers should also take steps to reduce and eliminate over-criminalization, focusing resources on preventing and solving serious crime and not generating unnecessary criminal records for individuals dealing with homelessness, mental illness, and substance abuse.

Please vote “Yes” when HF1 comes before you for final passage. Thank you for the opportunity to share our position on this important issue. Please don’t hesitate to reach out if you have questions, need more information, or if you would like to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,

Jason Flohrs  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity - Minnesota

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, *Americans for Prosperity (AFP)* is driving long-term solutions to the country’s biggest problems. AFP activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another. AFP recruits and unites activists in 35 states behind a common goal of advancing policies that will help people improve their lives.