



Thursday, April 15, 2021

**Key Vote Alert: Vote “No” on HF1952 – House State Government Omnibus Bill**

Dear Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity activists across Minnesota, I am writing today to urge a “No” vote on final passage of HF1952, the State Government Omnibus bill, that would limit Minnesotans’ ability to exercise their constitutional rights to free speech and freedom of association.

**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.**

America benefits when a diversity of voices participates in public life. Every American should have the same opportunity to amplify their voice by coming alongside those who share their points of view. This body should not consider legislation that would make that harder.

Article 4 of HF1952 would add unconstitutional restrictions on how people can communicate about issues and compel speech by groups engaged in nonpartisan issue advocacy. Previous versions of these policies at the federal and state level have raised concern from a wide range of people and groups including [civil liberty organizations](#), [former FEC commissioners](#), and [press freedom advocates](#) – to name a few.

Just as Americans have the right to cast ballots in private, we have the right to support causes, join groups, and make donations without being monitored by the government. History shows that the choice to engage privately — free from the gaze of those in power — helps protect all voices, especially the marginalized. Much of our greatest progress started with unpopular ideas from a nameless minority. Imagine how differently our country would look if those ideas never saw the light of day.

Stretching back to before the founding and right up through the civil rights era and on to today, privacy has played a crucial role in achieving progress. The unsigned *Federalist Papers* helped persuade a new nation to endorse the Constitution; the Supreme Court protected NAACP members from intimidation by state officials in the Jim Crow South; for four decades, anonymous donors were the largest contributors to LGBTQ causes. Stripping citizens of their privacy is a tool wielded by those already in political power to silence their opposition. It is a tactic for those who fear losing on the merits, so elaborate process is invented to shut down debate and restrict those ideas from spreading.

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.

Whatever your position on any issue, the principle remains consistent: “Accountability is for politicians, transparency is for government, and privacy is for the people.”

We share concerns about the deterioration of public discourse and the disengagement and discord that follow. The great 19th century statesman Fredrick Douglass wrote on the eve of a civil war that “liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one’s thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist.” Our divisions today are serious and growing more dangerous. It is a critical moment for free expression. Ensuring the protection of civil liberties – not limiting them – remains the surest solution to uncivil times.

Thank you for your time and attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Flohrs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Flohrs  
State Director  
Americans for Prosperity – Minnesota