



March 28th, 2023

Re: Senate File 2075 – Higher Education Finance & Policy Omnibus Bill

Members of the Senate Higher Education Finance & Policy Committee

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota’s gun owners to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, opposes funding the University of Minnesota Law School’s “Gun Violence Prevention” law clinic, which is part of the University of Minnesota’s overall budget.

In December 2022, the University of Minnesota Law School launched a “gun violence prevention” clinic that “focuses on promoting gun violence prevention through strategic litigation.” The clinic obtained funding from the anti-gun Joyce Foundation, among other sources.

The clinic is led by Megan Walsh, a Visiting Clinical Professor of Law, who previously filed an amicus brief in the landmark *McDonald v. City of Chicago* Second Amendment case at the United States Supreme Court. In the amicus brief that Professor Walsh co-authored, she argued in support of a total ban on handguns in Oak Park, Illinois, defending an ordinance that **banned handguns for more than twenty-five years**. Professor Walsh also previously served as a consulting attorney with the anti-gun group *Everytown*.

Professor Walsh has also testified in her personal capacity for gun control bills at the legislature, as recently as last week. In her testimony, she cited her role at the clinic for increased credibility.

Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison has named Professor Walsh a *Special Assistant Attorney General of the State of Minnesota*, empowering her to sue and represent the state on legal matters pertaining to the Second Amendment. The MN Attorney General is currently suing a firearms dealer for alleged negligence for following existing state & federal firearms laws and intends to file other similar litigation.

It is not the role of a state-funded law school to use litigation to attack the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Minnesotans or seek to restrict the rights of citizens who are exercising a specifically enumerated constitutional right.



Rights protected by the Second Amendment are not second-class rights and cannot be treated differently than other individually held rights.

The University of Minnesota Law School would not establish a law clinic to attack free speech. It must not continue to receive funding for a law clinic that attacks the right to keep and bear arms.

On behalf of our members,

A blue ink signature of Bryan Strawser, written in a cursive style.

Bryan Strawser
Chair

A black ink signature of Robert T. Doar, written in a cursive style.

Robert T. Doar
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

cc:

Sen. Zach Duckworth, Ranking Minority Member