



February 27, 2023

Public Safety Policy and Finance Committee Members,

To honor the mission of our statewide organization and on behalf of our 90+ victim serving member programs, I am writing in of support HF1406.

Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC) is a statewide victim rights and advocacy membership coalition with 90+ member programs throughout Minnesota. Two thirds of our members are Victim/Witness Programs that reside within prosecutorial or law enforcement offices. The remaining members are community-based programs that provide support and services to victims of crime.

The overwhelming majority of our member coalition support, at a minimum, an overhaul of Minnesota's current Aiding and Abetting Felony Murder law and most members support an out-right repeal of the current law.

Our programs, and I, have had direct contact with family members of homicide victims. These family members have expressed their frustration with the inequity of Minnesota's Aiding and Abetting Felony Murder statute. For those individuals who were charged and convicted under the current law, family members support sentences that more accurately reflect the amount of culpability those individuals had in the death of their loved ones. There are individuals serving sentences for a crime that they were coerced to participate in, or more likely, had no knowledge was going to be committed.

I heard directly from a family member of a homicide victim who shared that a person, whom they believe had no knowledge that a crime was going to be committed, was convicted with aiding and abetting felony murder. The non-principal actor had smoked marijuana with, and then gave the individual who committed the homicide, a ride to a public location that was known and frequented by both the driver and principal actor. Approximately 5 minutes after the driver had dropped off the principal actor, they remained at the location talking with friends. The principal actor committed homicide and then fled on foot. The driver had no known connection to the homicide victim but received a sentence that was, in essence, longer than the principal actor received, because the principal actor was offered a plea deal and agreed to cooperate in a separate case.

MAC is actively working with our allies and stakeholders to create a more equitable and just criminal/legal system and we believe an overhaul or repeal of the current Aiding and Abetting Felony Murder Law would be a giant step forward in achieving this vision.

In Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bobbi Holtberg". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Bobbi Holtberg
Executive Director
Minnesota Alliance on Crime