

Friday March 3, 2023

To: Nicole Kaplan
Committee Administrator
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Rm. 1200 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: MACDL Support of SF 1478

Dear Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Committee,

The Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL) writes in support of SF 1478's felony murder law reforms. MACDL first met with the advocates of this law in 2018. They are the tireless parents of two young women whose cases display the injustice of the current structure of the felony murder laws that punish people who had no intent to cause death to the victim but got pulled along by an accomplice who did have murderous intent. For those two classes of people to be punished the same defeats all purposes of deterrence, punishment, and rehabilitation that are the core of our criminal justice system. SF 1478 addresses that injustice by requiring that the accomplice have the same intent to cause death as the principal person committing the murder in order for them to face the same criminal punishment. Making it retroactive is an important piece to ensuring that past injustices are corrected, like those faced by the families that have advocated for this reform. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and please feel free to contact MACDL to discuss ways in which we can be helpful.

My email is ryan@brockhunterlaw.com and my cell is 612-232-8767. Thank you for your consideration of this information.

Sincerely,

Ryan Else –
Legislative Chair for Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL)