



Tuesday, Mar 26, 2024

Minnesota Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee  
Room G-15 Capitol  
Minnesota State Capitol Building  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Committees,

Protect Minnesota, the only independent, state-based organization devoted to gun violence prevention in Minnesota, endorses the important anti-hate measures in SF4385/HF4252.

Hate crimes are on the rise, and many of these crimes involve the use of firearms. Since 2017, hate crimes against transgender and gender-non-conforming people nearly doubled, and 74% of homicides against transgender people involved a firearm. This legislation would provide grants to local community-based organizations already working to promote intergroup harmony, strengthen community resilience, and develop strategies for education, outreach, and prevention of hate crimes. Since hate is so often linked to gun violence, we believe that this bill is a vital step towards reducing hate-involved firearm violence.

With this bill, we have an opportunity to see statewide direct community-based work in Minnesota that inoculates against hate on a person-to-person level, which is also where we see the majority of firearm homicide being committed. By investing in grassroots initiatives and empowering local communities, we create a safer and more inclusive Minnesota for all, reducing firearm and other types of violence. We are committed to working with Minnesota legislators to enact essential legislative proposals to reduce the number of Minnesotans who are killed by gun violence every year.

Sincerely,

Maggiy Emery  
Executive Director  
Protect Minnesota  
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