



April 10, 2024

Chair Latz and the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of S.F. 4413

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Committee:

Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition to end relationship abuse, writes today in support of the passage of Senate File 4413. We believe that this bill will improve victim/survivor access to a crucial piece of public safety by simplifying and clarifying the process for serving an Order for Protection (OFP) when a respondent is on supervision in the state of MN.

Under current law, when someone who causes harm is released from confinement and placed on probation or parole, a victim/survivor who needs an OFP for their safety and security must locate the abusive party's address in order to have service completed. This puts the victim/survivor, whose goal, in part, in obtaining the OFP is to avoid contact with the abusive party, in the position of having to "hunt down" an address for this individual. This imposes both the tangible burden of investigating the abuser and the emotional burden of having to potentially interact with them or their family and friends, on the victim/survivor.

Additionally, even when the victim/survivor has a "best known address" for the abusive party, the abusive party can still make attempts to avoid service. In this scenario, the victim/survivor needs to file additional paperwork and attend additional hearings to complete service by alternative means. This multiple layered process imposes extra burdens upon the victim/survivor due to the malfeasance of the opposite party. For the minority of OFP filings where the abusive party is on supervision, probation and parole officers can be instrumental in making service happen in scenarios like this, with the outcome of increased safety for individual victims and the community at large.

S.F. 4413 represents a practical solution to these issues. Probation agents sometimes do not know that they are already permitted by statute to complete service of these orders, and this bill makes it clear that they can. This bill also ensures that victim/survivors will no longer carry the onus of locating their own abuser, but shifts that onus onto joint efforts between law enforcement and probation/parole officers. This bill represents the best way to balance the victim/survivor's interest in safety, stability, and efficiency with the offender's interest in knowing about any Order for Protection that may be issued against them.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director
Violence Free Minnesota

Jess Palyan
Policy Program Manager
Violence Free Minnesota