



Support for the Work of The Violence Project

March 4th, 2025

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, we write to express our support for the data-driven, nonpartisan research conducted by The Violence Project. While we take no position on any specific funding allocation, we recognize and appreciate the valuable contributions of The Violence Project in advancing an objective understanding of firearm-related violence.

Our organization strongly believes that sound public policy should be informed by empirical data rather than partisan rhetoric. The Violence Project's research provides critical insight into the key drivers of firearm-related violence, helping to separate fact from conjecture. Their rigorous approach allows policymakers, law enforcement, and the public to engage in informed discussions about targeted interventions—many of which have no impact on the Second Amendment rights of peaceable people.

Having read their book and attended multiple workshops and conferences hosted by The Violence Project, I can personally attest to the quality and integrity of their work. Their research has been instrumental in identifying patterns and contributing to discussions on evidence-based strategies for violence reduction. As a nonpartisan, nonprofit research center based at Hamline University, their mission to reduce violence through accessible and actionable research is both commendable and necessary.

In an era where policy debates often become polarized, The Violence Project stands out as a reliable, fact-driven resource. Their work does not advocate for sweeping or arbitrary restrictions but instead provides nuanced data that can guide targeted solutions to reduce violence while respecting constitutional rights.

We encourage the Committee to consider the importance of objective research in crafting effective policy. Regardless of the outcome of funding discussions, we believe The Violence Project's contributions to public safety and informed policymaking merit recognition and continued engagement.

Please feel free to contact us if we can provide any further perspective on this matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rob Doar". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Rob Doar
Senior Vice President
Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus