



Dear Co-Chairs Novotny and Moller, and Members of the Committee,

Violence Free Minnesota, the statewide coalition to end relationship abuse, writes in support of HF 2169, a bill to include Orders for Protection from Washington, D.C., U.S. Territories, Tribal Authorities, or Canada in the Second Degree Unintentional Murder statute. Our membership-based organization represents over 90 member programs who provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence in every county in the state. This bill reaffirms the important principle that, wherever a person obtains an order for protection, that protection will be available to them in Minnesota.

Our coalition generally supports criminal domestic violence legislation which closes loopholes and corrects past oversights. This bill is simple and will have a positive impact on survivors.

Orders for protection (and their equivalents) are important safety tools for survivors. People with OFPs who move or are travelling to Minnesota deserve to know that our state takes their safety as seriously as their place of origin does. In 518b.01, the changes invoked in HF 2169 are already incorporated. This bill simply incorporates these changes in another place in law.

Survivors have a lot to worry about during and directly after their abuse: safety, shelter, income, food, childcare, healthcare, ongoing litigation or prosecution, and more. They should not have to wonder if the protective order they were granted means the same thing in Manitoba as it means in Minnesota. And the State of Minnesota should not prosecute a person who kills an abuse victim differently just because the victim held a protective order from a tribal authority.

For the foregoing reasons, we support this legislation and ask that you support its passage.

Thank you,
Katie Kramer and Nikki Engel
Co-Executive Directors
Violence Free Minnesota