



Statement of the North Star Alliance in Support of HF 3477
Accountability for Wrongful Acts
March 4, 2026

Protecting the Constitutional rights of Minnesotans is a core responsibility of the state government. House File 3477 seeks to do just this by holding all government officials accountable to not only the US Constitution, but also to the Minnesota constitution. As noted legal scholar Akhil Reed Amar has concluded, “we often fail to note that federalism cuts both ways—that *states* can gain political goodwill by arming their citizens with remedies for constitutional wrongs threatened or perpetrated by *federal* officials.”¹

When the actions of federal officers cannot be reasonably characterized as complying with the full range of federal law, state law may apply with full force.² This Act creates a state-level law, expanding on a federal law,³ that allows federal officers to be held accountable for depriving Minnesota residents of their rights. In Minnesota, the killing of Renee Good and Alex Pretti by federal agents, as well as the Department of Justice’s refusal to include state and local agencies in investigation of the incidents, illustrates the acute need for such protections. Under current law, Renee and Alex’s families’ options for legal redress are few.

We support this bill because it provides a way for Minnesotans deprived of their constitutional rights to hold federal agents accountable and obtain justice. We also support the intergovernmental collaboration requirement binding federal agencies to agree to honor the Minnesota Constitution. HF 3477 protects Minnesotans by holding federal agents accountable to constitutional violations and provides a form of remedy for residents whose rights are violated.

North Star Alliance Leadership Team:

- Comunidades Organizando el Poder y la Acción Latina (COPAL)
- Episcopal Church of Minnesota
- Communities Advancing Prosperity for Immigrant (CAPI USA)
- Jewish Community Action (JCA)
- Asylum Coalition for Transition - Twin Cities (ACT-TC)
- Fe y Justicia
- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU-MN)
- Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA)
- Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL)
- Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM)

¹ Akhil Reed Amar, *Of Sovereignty and Federalism*, 96 YALE L.J. 1425, 1428 (1987).

² For example, see *Denson v. United States*, 574 F.3d 1318, 1348 (11th Cir. 2009).

³ 42 U.S.C. § 1983.