



March 24th, 2025

To: Chairs Moller and Novotny and Committee Members

Re: Support for HF 686

The Justice for All Coalition expresses its strong support for HF 686 to develop a model policy for safe traffic stops in Minnesota. As a coalition dedicated to advancing justice and equitable treatment for all communities, we believe this legislation is a necessary step toward reforming public safety practices and reducing harm during law enforcement interactions. When the public views traffic stops as fair and just, they can build trust in law enforcement and enhance safety for officers and drivers.

Traffic stops are among the most common forms of police-civilian encounters, yet they too often result in escalated tensions, racial disparities, and tragic outcomes—particularly for people of color. By mandating a statewide model policy grounded in de-escalation, communication, best practices, and legal rights education, this bill addresses the urgent need for improved approaches to traffic enforcement.

We strongly support provisions that:

- Require training on de-escalation and implicit bias to reduce unnecessary use of force.
- Establish clear guidelines to prevent racial profiling and ensure equitable treatment.
- Incorporate community engagement and education to foster trust between law enforcement and the people they serve.
- Ensure officers are equipped with the latest best practices through both pre-service curriculum and ongoing education.

This legislation is a meaningful investment in both public safety and civil rights. It provides law enforcement with the tools necessary to conduct traffic stops in a manner that prioritizes safety, fairness, and respect for all individuals. Furthermore, by requiring agencies to adopt policies that align with the model policy, the bill promotes consistency and accountability across Minnesota.

We urge you and your colleagues to support this critical reform. Thank you for your leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working together to advance justice in our state.

Sincerely,

Justice for All Coalition Members