



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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April 30, 2023

To: Chair Ron Latz; Senators Clare Oumou Verbeten; Sandra Pappas; Judy Seeberger; and Bonnie Westlin
Chair Kelly Moller; Representatives Sandra Feist, Jamie Becker-Finn, Cedrick Frazier, and Brion Curran

RE: Opposition to No-Knock Language in the House version of SF2909, the Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety bill

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota. On behalf of Minnesota's approximately 10,400 rank-and-file police officers, I am writing to express our opposition to the proposed changes to Minnesota Statutes, section 626.14, the "no-knock" provisions, contained in the House version of the omnibus Public Safety bill.

MPPOA opposes the "No-Knock" provisions in SF2909, the Second Unofficial Engrossment, Article 10, sections 5-10, in the House version of the Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety bill.

Minnesota Statutes, section 626.14, sets forth the parameters and service requirements for search warrants, including "no-knock" search warrants. The policy goal of the statute is to preserve evidence and to protect those executing the search warrant, as well as the public. The present statutory language provides law enforcement with clear and balanced direction on how to apply for and execute these warrants (Minnesota Statutes, section 626.14, subd. 3). In short, "no-knock" warrants are not granted at will and require a high degree of detail and sufficient factual basis. Additionally, law enforcement agencies are required to report their use of "no-knock" warrants to the Commissioner of Public Safety (Minnesota Statutes, section 626.14, subd. 4).

Moreover, Minnesota Statutes, section 626.14, has not been frozen in time. The current statutory language was modified in a bi-partisan manner in 2021. The high threshold for obtaining these warrants remains firmly in place, and the need for public safety is at an all-time high.

The proposed amendments to the statute will significantly limit law enforcement's ability to protect evidence, the public, and themselves. Therefore, Minnesota's police officers strongly oppose the proposed House changes to Minnesota Statutes, section 626.14, "no-knock" warrants, and urge the Conference Committee to not adopt the language into the final Omnibus Public Safety Conference Committee Report.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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