Written Testimony
for
**Minnesota House Public Safety Finance & Policy Committee 3 November 2023, 8:30 AM in State Capitol
Room 120**

by
Justin Dragosani-Brantingham, MA, CI, PL, President and Chief Instructor
RAM Defense LLC
Warroad, MN

The bills to be heard are:

- HF14: Universal Background Checks a.k.a. Universal Gun Registration
- HF15: Red Flag Gun Confiscation Orders
- HF 396: Safe Storage requirements
- HF 601: Mandatory lost & stolen firearm reporting

Committee Administrator Ellen McDaniel, ellen.mcdaniel@house.mn.gov, I respectfully submit the following:

- **Simply put, all of these bills violate liberty and law in pursuit of security.**
  - **Ben Franklin as part of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1755, wrote to the Governor of Pennsylvania, "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."**
- **Liberty is without question the most treasured right and value of human existence, and it is formally enshrined, codified and protected in American and Minnesotan law.**
  - **As such, it is deemed inviolate.**
- **Is tyranny now to be accepted and even promoted in American and Minnesotan law?**
  - **We collectively find the idea repugnant.**
- **Regardless of motive, contravening in matters of liberty and personal responsibility in a free republic is wicked and a most serious attack on good citizens.**
  - **As the entirety of human history has proven time and again, when the people are oppressed enough, they will defend themselves, even through a justified and virtuous rebellion.**
    - **Pray God we Minnesotans can avert that calamity!**
- **Slaves are not allowed to be armed, and we Minnesotans are by no means slaves!**
- **Thomas Jefferson wrote James Madison in 1787 *Malo periculosam, libertatem quam quietam servitutem* "I prefer the tumult of liberty to the quiet of servitude". He also said in the same letter that "governments of force" are a "government of wolves over sheep."**
- **As such, these manifestations of the malignant cancer of authoritarianism should be officially halted with the utmost urgency!**