

Dear Members of the Public Safety Committee,

The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota is an organization devoted to preserving the rights and liberties enshrined in our constitution and laws.

We are writing in support of HF 3358.

Mass arrests often happen in cases of large-scale protests, political upheavals, or as we've seen in the last two months – aggressive civil immigration enforcement. In these mass arrests we often see instances of police brutality and violations of people's basic human rights. One of these violations is the way in which arrested individuals are transported.

Historically, police paddy wagons have been criticized as “rough rides,” creating inhumane conditions that jeopardize the safety of those being transported. Characteristic of these “rough rides” is arrested individuals not being secured by a seatbelt or any restraint. This leads to them flying around the interior of the vehicle, which is often caged in metal frames that can cause severe injury.

It's important that there be additional regulations to clarify that those acting in a law enforcement capacity cannot simply throw people into a van with no care for their safety. Whether these individuals are being detained on a warrant or probable cause, they are entitled to due process.

Constitutional protections require that those arrested, charged with crimes, or convicted crimes be treated humanely, and this includes safe transportation. Being guilty of a crime or civil immigration infraction does not mean immediate punishment and injury.

The ACLU-MN supports HF3358 mandating safe, humane transport and vehicle regulation.

Thank you,

Munira Mohamed

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