



Communities United Against Police Brutality™

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March 21, 2023

Rep. Kelly Moller, Chair
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members:

Thank you for accepting this written testimony related to HF 2510, a bill to modify statutes related to the Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services.

We write in support of HF 2510 and Chair Moller's amendment. These changes address the concerns we raised during the January 10 hearing on the Board's biannual report to your committee. Those concerns stem from several reports our organization has received of unlicensed security guards at grocery stores and other public facilities violating people's rights through physical violence, destruction of personal property, and other illegal acts. The Board took the position that they could only act on complaints against licensed individuals and companies.

Specifically, Chair Moller's proposed changes clarify the ability and duty of the Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services to take action against unlicensed companies, ensuring that those providing investigative and security services are properly background checked, qualified and trained and that the companies employing them meet statutory requirements. Further, these changes provide a mechanism for community members to identify individuals they encounter who are engaged in this work.

During their January testimony, the Board's representative stated that roughly 40% of security companies in the state are not properly licensed. We support adding a fiscal note to HF 2510 to provide the Minnesota Board of Private Detective and Protective Agent Services with the staffing and resources needed to fully act on their mission of oversight of individuals and companies providing private detective and protective agent services.

Sincerely,

s/ Michelle F. Gross
Michelle Gross, President