



Wednesday, February 26th, 2025
Adzi Vokhiwa, Community Justice Action Fund
Minnesota House of Representative Public Safety Committee

Chair Novotny and members of the House Public Safety Committee,

My name is Adzi Vokhiwa and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Community Justice Action Fund in strong opposition to HF13. This bill, often referred to as a "Shoot First" law, will not deter crime and will instead disproportionately harm communities of color.

Research and real-world data have consistently shown that "Shoot First" laws do not make communities safer. In fact, they have been linked to increased homicide rates, including unlawful killings, rather than reducing violent crime. These laws encourage the unnecessary use of deadly force in situations that could otherwise be de-escalated, making our communities less safe rather than more secure.

Moreover, HF13 will disproportionately impact Black and Brown communities, where implicit bias and systemic racism already contribute to disparities in law enforcement and the justice system. Under these laws, shooters may act on bias or an unjustified fear, later claiming self-defense to avoid accountability.

Rather than adopting policies that encourage violence and disproportionately harm marginalized communities, Minnesota should invest in evidence-based approaches to public safety that promote de-escalation, accountability, and community-driven solutions.

For these reasons, we urge this committee to reject HF13 and prioritize legislation that genuinely enhances public safety for all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Adzi Vokhiwa
Community Justice Action Fund