



MINNESOTA POLICE AND PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

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February 1, 2023

To: Representative Dave Pinto
RE: Support for HF14 (Pinto) Criminal Background Checks Requirement for Firearms Transfers

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) is the largest association representing police and peace officers in the State of Minnesota. We represent Minnesota's 10,000+ public safety officials who hold active law enforcement licenses.

MPPOA supports HF14, legislation that requires that private transfers of pistols and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons be preceded by a firearms eligibility background check of the person receiving the firearm.

We are committed to keeping our residents and law enforcement officers safe from the threat of gun violence. At the same time, we also value, uphold and promote the rights of responsible gun owners to lawfully possess firearms, to protect themselves and their families, to participate in our proud tradition of hunting and to pass that tradition on to the next generation.

Routine background checks to ensure critical public safety measures to limit access to weapons by dangerous people and ensure that lawful gun owners have access to weapons of their choice without undue inconvenience. Our current laws in Minnesota need updating to improve consistent review and application. Public safety demands we make progress with the below core principles, which must be a part of any legislation to gain our collective support:

- **Careful and prudent policies to remedy the availability of handgun purchases between private sales that currently occur without a background check.** We support legislation that would require all purchasers of handguns and semiautomatic military-style assault weapons to undergo a criminal background check, removing the current exemptions for private sales.
- **A straightforward regulatory framework that allows law enforcement entities to conduct thorough background checks but also ensures ease of use by the public.** We support using the existing permit statutory framework, the current age requirement for firearms purchases and reasonable timelines for law enforcement to implement expanded use of background checks. The one-year validity of the permit serves our state well.

For the reasons above, MPPOA supports HF14.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association



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