



Dear Chair Novotny and Members,

Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition against relationship abuse, writes today in opposition to HF 1257. Violence Free Minnesota was granted the ability to appoint a member of this Council, and we are incredibly grateful to the legislature for considering victims' advocates when creating this body.

This Council was established to ensure that the Peace Officers Standards and Training Board is provided with substantial, meaningful input from a mixture of law enforcement and community based representatives. We support the Council's mission and do not see a compelling reason to eliminate it.

From a victims' advocacy perspective, having direct input on the advice given to the POST board has been invaluable. Victims' advocacy and law enforcement are interdependent, but offer distinct models for how to best ensure community safety. Due to the unique position of victims' advocates and our close relationships with survivors of violence, we are able to provide valuable insights into the best ways to improve law enforcement responses. This Council is a potent way for us to share that perspective, and we believe that it still serves a positive purpose for the state of Minnesota.

Thank you,
Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director
Violence Free Minnesota