



Minnesota Department of Human Services
Office of Inspector General
444 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

March 1, 2021

To the 2021-2022 Minnesota State Legislature,

On behalf of the Department of Human Services (DHS), I am writing in support of HF 1370 (Mariani), the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) proposal to implement the most recent version of the National Child Protection Act/Volunteers for Children Act (NCPA/VCA) in the state of Minnesota.

The NCPA/VCA provides for expanded authority to perform background checks on individuals who have contact with children, the elderly, or the disabled as either employees or volunteers. In doing so, it provides safety and security protections for these potentially vulnerable populations.

The Minnesota Child Protection Background Check Act was originally passed in 1992 in response to the NCPA/VCA which went into effect in 1993. In 1994, the national act was expanded to include background check procedures for the safety and wellbeing of the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The MN legislative authority was never modified to reflect the federal changes.

With further recent updates to the national act, this language is critical to pass now so that these background checks retrieve all the necessary information to provide the most complete picture of an individual's criminal history before they are allowed to work or volunteer with children, the elderly, or individuals with disabilities.

In passing this language, DHS will also be able to better meet and comply with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) requirements in serving as the authorized agency for conducting these background checks (in collaboration with the BCA).

For these reasons, DHS fully supports the passage of the BCA's language to implement the revised National Child Protection Act/Volunteers for Children Act. Thank you for your time and consideration of this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles E. Johnson'.

Charles E. Johnson
Deputy Commissioner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kulani R. Moti'.

Kulani R. Moti
Inspector General