



April 6th, 2026

Representatives Kelly Moller and Paul Novotny, Co-Chairs
House Public Safety Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representatives Moller, Novotny and Committee Members,

Subject: Statement in support of HF 2742

I served 33 years in local law enforcement, including 20 years as a criminal investigator. I've served the past four years as the public safety policy fellow with Center of the American Experiment.

In this capacity write in support of HF 2742 which would establish a Minnesota clearance rate grant program focused on improving the solve rates of non-fatal shootings.

Despite the seriousness of non-fatal shootings, the solve rates of these violent crimes are often lower than expected, and certainly lower than we should accept. Police staffing issues, increased caseloads and a frequent lack of cooperation by victims and witnesses have led many jurisdictions to de-prioritize non-fatal shootings, often leading to dismal solve rates and increased retaliatory violence.

The good news is there is solution. Several cities around the country, including St. Paul, have recognized the benefit of re-dedicating resources and re-prioritizing non-fatal shooting investigations. The results have been impressive. St. Paul improved its non-fatal shooting solve rate from 27% in 2022 to an impressive 71% in 2024 – and retaliatory shootings have plummeted.

HF 2742 would support similar collaborative efforts to improve non-fatal shooting solve rates in other areas of the state with a demonstrated need. It focuses on interjurisdictional cooperation, force multiplying efforts, enhanced selection of detectives, and collaboration with county attorneys, victim-witness coordinators, and forensic scientists.

I am confident this grant program would help Minnesota's law enforcement agencies improve solve rates for non-fatal shootings, enhance and rebuild community trust in the justice system, and ultimately reduce the cycle of retaliatory violence.

Sincerely

David P. Zimmer

David Zimmer
Public Safety Policy Fellow
Center of the American Experiment