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Minnesota

March 22, 2023

Rep. Jamie Becker-Finn Chair
MN House of Representatives
Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee

Rep. Peggy Scott, Minority Lead
MN House of Representatives
Judiciary Finance and Civil Committee

SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and Members of the House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee,

The ACLU of Minnesota respectfully submits this letter in strong support of HF2290. Prohibiting the use of no-knock warrants is a meaningful step toward protecting the civil liberties of all Minnesotans.

After Amir Locke's killing, we testified before the legislature urging consideration of a ban on no-knock warrants. The reasons for ACLU-MN's support of this policy remain the same: no-knock warrants empower the state to unilaterally authorize unannounced entrance by armed state agents into a person's residence. This implicates core civil liberties principles which regard the exercise of government power over people as an evergreen concern.

In addition, no-knock warrants create a no-win situation where everyone can be "right" and harm still occurs. Worst-case scenarios such as a lawful gun owner or innocent bystander being hurt or killed by the state in their own home because they exercised their rights, or were simply present, during service of a no-knock warrant should not be accepted as unavoidable or necessary to ensure public safety. The state should not be empowered to create these kinds of scenarios in the first place.

The ACLU of Minnesota urges support of HF2290 in order to protect the civil liberties of all Minnesotans.

Thank you,

Julia Decker
ACLU-MN
Policy Director