

# [FPC] FIREARMS POLICY COALITION

February 8, 2023

The Honorable Jamie Becker-Finn  
Chair, Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee  
559 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Cedrick Frazier  
Vice Chair Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee  
439 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: House File 14 (Pinto) -Firearms Transfer Eligibility**  
**POSITION: OPPOSE**

Dear Representatives Becker-Finn and Frazier, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I respectfully submit this written comment on behalf of my client, the Firearms Policy Coalition (FPC), a non-profit organization that promotes maximal individual liberty and sound public policy through litigation, research, education, grassroots outreach, and direct advocacy, to express their firm opposition to HF 14 (Pinto) a measure that is offensive to the civil liberties that all People naturally enjoy. I will address some of the measure's infirmities here;

- This measure places the state between peaceable People and exercise of their natural and enumerated right to keep and bear arms, and to freely acquire and dispose of their protected arms.
- The application process introduces subjectivity from local law enforcement, inviting discrimination against marginalized communities, those of modest means, and those who may have prior history of their rights being chilled by these very institutions.
- HF 14 grants a handful of law enforcement officials the power to make subjective determinations of an otherwise not prohibited applicant's future behavior.
- A right delayed is a right denied. By extending the application response time by law enforcement, HF 14 furthers the separation of the People from their rights.
- Rejected applicants may need relief from the court, without a jury, and must bear the costs to restore their rights against the power of the state.
- The deprivation of an enumerated right is the state's burden to prove the person is prohibited under an analysis consistent with the Constitution's text, informed by American history and tradition.
- HF 14 Requires private parties to keep transaction records for 20 years creating a collective, compulsory, privately held registry of firearms and their owners, inviting potential law enforcement contacts, without warrant, subpoena or warning.

HF 14 offends and chills the rights of the People, diminishes trust in our institutions and creates a series of unwarranted and unwelcome processes. As the glaring infirmities in the measures are beyond remedy, we urge the author to withdraw HF 14 from consideration. Short of the measure being withdrawn, we urge the members of the committee to reject this measure.

Chair Becker-Finn, Vice Chair Frazier, and Honorable Members of the Committee  
RE: HF 14 (Pinto) OPPOSE  
Page 2 of 2

---

Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us at [policy@fpchq.org](mailto:policy@fpchq.org) or 1215 K Street, 17th Fl., PMB 3003, Sacramento, CA 95814 or (916) 378-5785, if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Todd J. Rathner  
Legislative Consultant  
Direct: 520-404-8096

Cc: Author; Members of the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee