



Senate Judiciary & Public Safety Committee
March 11, 2026

On behalf of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the trusted voice of Minnesota's law-abiding gun owners working to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms, we respectfully urge you to **vote NO on SF 1580**.

SF 1580 appropriates **\$1,000,000 in taxpayer funding** to the Commissioner of Public Safety to provide to a Minnesota-based research center focused on "gun violence."

In practice, this funding would be directed to the **Violence Prevention Project at Hamline University**, a center now known for promoting partisan gun control policies and advocacy positions.

The Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus strongly supports **academic research into the causes of violence**, including analysis of criminal behavior, mental health crises, and factors that contribute to acts of violence in our communities.

However, taxpayers should not be compelled to **subsidize partisan policy advocacy under the banner of research**.

The Violence Prevention Project has taken clear public positions supporting policies such as bans on commonly owned semiautomatic firearms and other restrictions, measures that remain deeply contested and raise significant constitutional concerns.

Funding a research center that promotes specific legislative outcomes risks turning taxpayer dollars into a **publicly financed policy advocacy operation** rather than supporting neutral academic inquiry.

It is also important to note that this center already receives financial support from national advocacy organizations, including the **Joyce Foundation**, which has long funded gun control lobbying groups and firearm restriction campaigns across the United States.

Minnesota taxpayers should not be asked to fund additional advocacy infrastructure aligned with national gun control organizations.

If the legislature wishes to support research on violence, it should do so through **neutral, competitive grant programs with clear guardrails to ensure objectivity and academic independence**.

Directing a million dollars to a specific center now known for advancing a particular political viewpoint undermines public trust and risks politicizing academic research.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to **vote NO on SF 1580**.

Sincerely,

Bryan Strawser
Chair

Anna Leamy
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy