



Senate Judiciary & Public Safety Committee  
March 11, 2026

On behalf of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus—the trusted voice of Minnesota’s gun owners working to defend and restore the right to keep and bear arms—we respectfully urge you to **vote NO on SF 513**.

SF 513 would create a new “Office of Gun Violence Prevention” within the Minnesota Department of Health.

While framed as a public health initiative, the bill would establish a permanent, taxpayer-funded office with broad authority to shape firearm policy, coordinate with outside organizations, promote regulatory strategies, and influence legislation under the banner of research and data collection.

Minnesota does not need another layer of government bureaucracy focused on reframing and restricting a constitutional right.

Similar initiatives have been attempted at the federal level, most notably the former White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention, which ultimately functioned as a centralized policy and advocacy hub within the Executive Branch. This office was eliminated by President Trump. Minnesota should not replicate that failed model at the state level.

Instead of focusing on violent offenders, repeat criminals, and prosecution failures, SF 513 institutionalizes a public-health framework that treats lawful firearm ownership as a societal pathology. The Second Amendment protects a fundamental civil right and should not be recast as a public health disorder.

The bill also grants the proposed office broad authority to conduct research, develop public messaging campaigns, coordinate with “national stakeholders,” and serve as a legislative resource on gun violence prevention policy. In practice, “national stakeholders” frequently include national gun control advocacy organizations.

Minnesota taxpayers should not be compelled to fund coordination with outside political groups whose stated mission is to restrict lawful firearm ownership.

Minnesota already funds extensive public safety and crime analysis infrastructure through the Department of Public Safety, the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Office of Justice Programs, and local law enforcement agencies. These entities already collect and publish data related to violent crime and firearm-related incidents.

**Creating a new Office of Gun Violence Prevention does not fill a data gap—it duplicates existing functions while expanding government bureaucracy.**

If the legislature is serious about reducing violence, the focus should remain on enforcing existing laws against violent criminals, supporting law enforcement, strengthening prosecution, and assisting victims—not building additional administrative offices.

SF 513 would create a new director, staff positions, ongoing reporting mandates, and new taxpayer-funded appropriations without clear evidence that such an office would reduce violent crime.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to **vote NO on SF 513**.

Bryan Strawser  
Chair

Anna Leamy  
Director, Government Relations & Advocacy