

Pass Police Accountability legislation NOW - 4/20

Bill info:

HF1078 House Public Safety Omnibus bill - includes lots of police accountability provisions in it. It will be debated on the House floor tomorrow (Wed).

SF970 Senate Public Safety Omnibus bill - doesn't include any police accountability provisions. It passed in the Senate last week and was sent to the House.



What the bills do:

The House version:

- Strengthens Civilian Oversight (HF 640)
- End Police-Only Responses to Mental Health Crisis Calls (HF1686/SF1924)
- End Qualified Immunity (HF 1104, SF 580)
- End No-Knock Warrants (HF 1762, SF 2139)
- Require Police to Carry Professional Liability Insurance (HF 440, SF 815) - funds for study only
- Require Access to Body Worn Camera Footage in Police Critical Incidents within 48 Hours (HF 1103, SF 807)
- Hate Crimes - strengthens hate crime laws, updates Peace Officer training on handling hate crimes and provides support to victims (HF1691/SF2003)
- Outlaws White Supremacy in MN Law Enforcement (HF593/SF1489)

The Senate version:

- Includes bill to strengthen the MN sexual assault laws
- Lifts the statute of limitations for criminal charges of criminal sexual conduct (both also in the House Public Safety omnibus)
- Does not include any police accountability provisions.

Who to contact:

- 1) **Your House Rep** - <https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/> - and tell them to vote YES on the police accountability bills in the Public Safety Omnibus and to do everything they can to make sure those bills stay in the omnibus.
- 2) **Senate Majority Leader Gazelka**
Tel: 651-296-4875 Email: <https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1169> - and urge him to give proper hearings to police accountability bills.

Sample script:

House Rep -

My name is..... , I live at and I am your constituent. I am calling you with

Women's March MN to urge you to vote YES to the provisions on police accountability and police reform that are in the House Public Safety omnibus.

The police accountability bills currently in the Public Safety omnibus are a good start. Please vote YES on all of them when they come to the House floor for a vote. Please also do EVERYTHING you can to keep these bills in the omnibus as the negotiations begin between the House and the Senate versions of the Public Safety Omnibus.

This is the time to be bold, to listen to the community most impacted by police violence, who are asking for meaningful, transformative change, so mothers don't have to worry when their adult children go out in a car, and so traffic stops don't end up with someone being shot to death by the police. Daunte Wright should be alive today, just as George Floyd should be.

If your Rep is in the POCI Caucus, thank them for all their work to get police accountability bills passed into law this session. Tell them you support them and urge them to stay strong. Ask them how you can help.

Senate Majority Leader Sen. Gazelka -

My name is, I live in..... And I am calling you as Senate Majority Leader and I am calling as a member of Women's March MN.

I am very concerned about the disproportionate rate at which people of color die in police encounters in Minnesota again and again.

I know there were some police reform bills passed last year after George Floyd was killed by MPD, but clearly more needs to be done. Daunte Wright's death proves that. The people in the streets every night this week calling for police reform prove that. The raft of police accountability bills advocated for by MN community groups prove that too. All Minnesotans deserve to feel that the police are there to protect them and also have their best interests at heart. These bills are a good place to start making this happen.

I was very happy to learn that you are willing to have hearings on police reform this session, but then I realized that you said fact-finding hearings, and they need to be proper hearings. The Senate needs to hear these bills very soon and pass them into law.

MN needs police reform and we need it now. Please do not delay. The world is watching and so are we.

Join Women's March MN every other Tuesday for Time to Act - an online event where we gather to take action together on specific issues. Check the calendar for dates:

<https://www.womensmarchmn.com/calendar-of-events>