

Members of the Commission,

Let me start by first saying I am sorry that I am unable to address you all in person. Unfortunately, the secretive nature of the proposed HF1234/SF1959 legislation and the time changes in testifying has not allowed me to be present before you all today.

Let me tell you about myself. My name is Frank Hintz and I am a 40 year “medically retired” police officer and full time single parent. I worked for the White Bear Lake Police Department before becoming a police officer with the Metropolitan Transit Police Department. There I was heavily involved with community outreach, volunteering for Habitat for Humanity and raising money for the special olympics of Minnesota amongst serving the citizens of the eight-county metro area.

My time being a police officer was cut short. On September 26th, 2020, I was injured in the line of duty. Without getting into the lengthy story of attempting to handle worker’s compensation legislation and more, know this. HF1234/SF1959 will be financially and mentally detrimental to my life and my family.

It is difficult enough to have to “recertify” by disability every year, even though all the doctors say that I have reached MMI (maximum medical improvement) along with attempting to find another job/career with a disability and more.

This bill is furthermore detrimental to many of my former colleagues who are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as it relates to everything we endured during the George Floyd Riots of 2020.

In short, we need to support ALL of our first responders. This bill does the complete opposite. In my story, I saved a man’s life, and my entire life has changed from the inability to simply hug my loved ones as I once did and adapt through every piece of my life. If HF1234/SF1959 passes, it will harm countless people who have different forms of disability. Furthermore, passage of this bill sends a clear message to all first responders in the State of Minnesota. The message being, “The State not only does not care about you, the State is actively attempting to harm you. Even though we all took an oath to protect the State, and ALL of it’s citizens.”

Please, vote against HF1234/SF1959! We need our first responders and need to protect them. We should not be targeting anyone! Especially to not target and attack those we have disabilities!

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