Call to Action –

CTA Name: Email State Senators about the need to hold hearings on and pass police accountability legislation.

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Related legislation/Description of the issue: The MN House recently passed police accountability legislation as part of its omnibus public safety bill. The Senate has yet to take action.

Who to contact: State Senators Paul Gazelka and Warren Limmer and your own State Senator

You have to use an email form to contact Gazelka and Limmer. You may or may not be able to email your own Senator directly. If you want to enter a zip code into the Gazelka and Limmer forms that would be part of their districts (in order to see if that helps get your email noticed), those are provided below. Not sure if that tactic really helps or not.

> **Paul Gazelka** email form: https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1169. Zip codes in District 9:
> 56314, 56318, 56319, 56328, 56331, 56336, 56338, 56340, 56345, 56347, 56360, 56364, 56373, 56378, 56382, 56384, 56389, 56401, 56434, 56437, 56438, 56440, 56443, 56446, 56449, 56453, 56464, 56466, 56468, 56472, 56473, 56474, 56475, 56477, 56479, 56481, 56482
>
> **Warren Limmer** email form: https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1032. Zip codes in District 34:
> 55311, 55327, 55340, 55341, 55369, 55374, 55442, 55446
>
> **To get your own Senator's contact information**, use this link: https://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/

Copy what you send to Gazelka and Limmer and then email your own State Senator and paste what you sent to Gazelka or Limmer into that email, letting your Senator know you've contacted the other two and showing them what you said. (This strategy is in place of cc'ing your Senator on the emails to Gazelka and Limmer, because you can't include a cc: on these email forms).

Sample email text (some language you can revise to put in your own words):

For Gazelka:
I am (dismayed, disappointed, concerned, outraged) that you have walked back on your promise to hold hearings on the police accountability reforms sought by Gov. Tim Walz, Democratic legislators, police reform advocates, and many members of the general public. In the days after the Brooklyn Center police shooting of Daunte Wright, you had indicated that the Senate would hold "fact-finding" hearings this month on a slate of proposals that have passed the House. Now, however, you cite the conviction of former officer Derek Chauvin in George Floyd's killing as a sign that "justice has been clearly served," obviating the need to hold hearings.

I urge you to hold these hearings and to forward strong police reform legislation, in alignment with the legislation that has already passed in the Minnesota House.

For Limmer:
I am (dismayed, disappointed, concerned, outraged) that, despite proposing police accountability legislation in the Minnesota House, you, as head of the Judiciary and Public Safety committee, have held not a single hearing on police accountability this year. I urge you to hold these hearings and to forward strong police reform legislation, in alignment with the legislation that has already passed in the Minnesota House.

For your own Senator:
I am (dismayed, disappointed, concerned, outraged) that Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka has walked back his promise and is now declining to hold hearings on the police accountability reforms sought by Gov. Tim Walz, Democratic legislators, police reform advocates, and many members of the general public. While the Senator initially said in the days after the Brooklyn Center police shooting of Daunte Wright that the Senate would hold "fact-finding" hearings this month on a slate of proposals that have passed the House but now cites the conviction of former officer Derek Chauvin in George Floyd's killing as a sign that "justice has been clearly served," obviating the need to hold hearings. I am likewise outraged that, despite proposing police accountability legislation in the Minnesota House, Senator Warren Limmer, who leads the Judiciary and Public Safety committee, has held no hearings on police accountability this year.

I urge you to do whatever is necessary to ensure hearings are held and that the Senate forwards strong police reform legislation, in alignment with the legislation that has already passed in the Minnesota House.

For Gazelka, Limmer, or your own Senator, here are some facts you can cite. Pick and choose what resonates most with you and revise where needed to put in your own words.

Far from being a sign that justice has been served, the Chauvin trial, the persistent killing of unarmed civilians, and the extremely aggressive tactics employed by police in the face of lawful protest highlight exactly why police reform is needed:

- Police in Minnesota have killed at least 30 UNARMED people since 2000. The percentage of people killed by police who were Black – including those who were UNARMED – is four times higher than the percentage of all Minnesotans who are Black. That disparity is even greater for American Indians.

- During his law enforcement career, Derek Chauvin was involved in three police shootings, one of which was fatal, and he had 18 complaints on his official record, while he was disciplined only once and never for any of the shootings, one of which was fatal.
- The Minneapolis Police Department released false statements about the cause of George Floyd's death. The only reason Chauvin was even charged with Floyd's murder was because a bystander had the presence of mind to videorecord what happened.
- Nationwide, only 1.1% of police involved in killings of civilians are ever charged with murder or manslaughter. Chauvin is the only white police officer in Minnesota ever convicted of killing a Black citizen.
- Between the beginning of 2015 and the end of 2020, police officers fatally shot at least 135 unarmed Black men and women nationwide with killings continuing in 2021 at an alarming rate. Of the officers involved in these, only 13 were charged with murder and only two were found guilty.
- In the 22 days between the start of Derek Chauvin's trial and his conviction, 103 people were shot and killed by law enforcement nationwide, including a 15-year old girl killed only minutes before Chauvin's verdict was read.
- In the 24 hours following the verdict in Chauvin's trial, six people were killed by police across the country, with police obfuscation and mischaracterization of events, including in the shooting of 13-year-old Adam Toledo in Chicago.
- Residents protesting the killing of Daunte Wright (another UNARMED Black man) were met with extreme and disproportionate force by Brooklyn Center police, including the use of rubber bullets, pepper spray, and tear gas and were used against journalists in defiance of a court order.
- The militarization of police over the past decades means that more and more protesters face weapons formerly used only in war – and some of which have been banned for use in war, including tear gas.
- People experiencing mental health crises are 16 times more likely to be killed by police than any other group of people.
- Nationally, 50% of people killed by police have a mental health condition or are disabled. In Minnesota, five people experiencing mental health crises were killed in a three-week period (in late 2018) during encounters with law enforcement.