

CTA Name: Mental Health Crisis Response Bill HF1686/SF1924

Date Created: 4/4

Related Legislation (if applicable): (Include Bill numbers and link to view bill)

[HF1686](#) Author Rep Hanson (56A), 6 other co-authors. Heard and passed by Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee, had second hearing and is now in the General Register and can be brought to the House floor for a vote.

[SF1924](#) Author Sen. Abeler (35, R) 1 co-author (Sen. Hoffman, 36DFL) Needs a hearing in Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee (even though MNLeg says the H&HSF&P Committee).

Description of the Issue:

In Mn, in 3 weeks between Nov-Dec 2018, 5 people experiencing mental health crises were killed during encounters with law enforcement. Nationally, 50% of people killed by police have a mental health condition or are disabled.

People experiencing mental health crises are 16 times more likely to be killed by police than any other group of people.

Here in Minnesota, every county has a mobile mental health crisis response team but there is currently no legal requirement for 911 operators to send these teams.

This bill will end police-only responses to mental health 911 calls. It will legally require 911 operators to send a mental health crisis response team to a call involving someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis, and not just the police.

This is one of 9 Police Accountability bills being called for by the MN Coalition for Justice For George Floyd & All Stolen Lives (incl. Communities United Against Police Brutality, Minnesota Disability Justice Network, Minnesota Justice Coalition, Racial Justice Network, Council on American Islamic Relations (CAIR) MN) following the killing of George Floyd.

Since 2000, over 400 people have died at the hands of the police in MN.

Who to call/contact:

1) Senator Limmer (34, R) Chair of [Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee](#). Tel: 651-296-2159 Email: <https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1032>

Senator Johnson (01,R) Vice Chair of J&PSF&P Committee. Tel: 651-296-5782 Email: <https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1217>

Senator Latz (46, DFL) Ranking Minority Member of J&PSF&P Committee. Tel: 651-297-8065 Email: <https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1102>

2) Senator Gazelka (09, R), Senate Majority Leader Tel: 651-296-4875 Email:
<https://www.senate.mn/members/email-form/1169>

Sample script:

Sen. Limmer, Johnson, Latz

Dear,

My name isand I live in and I am a member of Indivisible Saint Paul.

I am calling/writing to you as the Chair/Vice Chair/Ranking Minority Member of the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee about the bill SF1924.

Please give this bill a hearing. Its companion bill (HF1686) has been heard and voted on in committee in the House.

Statistics show that people experiencing mental health crises are 16 times more likely to be killed by police than any other group of people. This bill will require 911 operators to send a mental health crisis team as well as the police when they get a call about someone who is experiencing a mental health crisis. Police are not equipped to be mental health crisis responders. People experiencing a mental health crisis need to be given appropriate support and care. People need to feel that they can call 911 for support for a loved one or someone in their community who is experiencing a mental health crisis, without endangering their lives through an encounter with the police. This bill will lead to better outcomes for everyone.

If you have a personal story relating to this issue, please share it.

Please give this bill a hearing as soon as you can so that the bill can move forward and be passed into law this session. MN needs this bill.

Thank you,

.....

Sen. Gazelka

Same as above except that you are contacting him as the Senate Majority Leader and you are asking him to do everything in his power to have this bill be heard in committee in the Senate so that it can move forward and be passed into law.

Also:

1) Please fill out this [form](#) asking MN Leg to take action on the 9 Police Accountability bills called for by the MN Coalition for Justice For George Floyd & All Stolen Lives. This form has been put together by CAIR MN and will automatically send an email to your state

Representative and Senator, as well as to Malcom Lawson and Migdalia Loyola of Gov. Walz's Public Engagement Office, asking for them to support these bills.

2) If you want to know more about the research informing this bill, see this report by Communities United Against Police Brutality - **Ending Police-Only Responses to Mental Health 911 Calls**.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/su22tlul1wf41bn/Mental%20Health%20Working%20Group%20Paper%20Final%2020200901.pdf?dl=0>