



Support for provisions within HF1355

March 8th, 2022

Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Members,

I write to you on behalf of the thousands of members and supporters of the Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus, the state's only Minnesota-dedicated 2nd Amendment advocacy organization, in support of certain provisions within HF1355. Our organization supports the language within this bill that states expungement "shall restore the person's ability to possess, receive, ship, or transport firearms and handle firearms and ammunition" within 152.18, subdivision 3 of Minnesota Statutes.

The right to keep and bear arms is a fundamental, Constitutionally-guaranteed right. When a person has paid their debt to society, there is no morally conscionable reason to bar them from the free exercise of their fundamental liberties, including the right to keep and bear arms. The Supreme Court of the United States decision in *D.C. v. Heller* (2008) and *McDonald v. City of Chicago* (2010) establish that the Constitution recognizes a fundamental right to own a firearm. If we expect individuals to be rehabilitated and to truly reintegrate into society, we cannot treat them as second-class citizens.

A free person should be able to live like a free person. We ask you to support the restoration of rights after expungement identified in this bill.

In Liberty,

Rob Doar

SVP – Government Relations
Minnesota Gun Owners Caucus