



## Sample Letter to the Editor *COVID-19 & Criminal Justice Reform*

Living in our community and serving in the Legislature has made something clear: Minnesotans care deeply about our state, and want to see each other succeed. Everyone deserves to live with an excellent quality of life and ultimately have a bright future for themselves and their families.

Unfortunately, this year we're facing some monumental challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to threaten our public health in a way none of us have experienced. For those struggling already, perhaps due to a preexisting condition, a disability, or age, the crisis has compounded their difficulties. We have a responsibility to help all Minnesotans navigate this situation to live safe, healthy lives.

On Memorial Day — when George Floyd was killed by a police officer in Minneapolis — the eyes of the world zeroed in on Minnesota. The lack of accountability for law enforcement — along with persistent racial inequalities — urgently deserves our attention.

To deliver these promises, we need a government responsive to the roadblocks folks face, and that gives us the opportunity to achieve our hopes and dreams. That's why I'm excited about Minnesota Values Project (MVP), a broad vision shared by the House DFL, the Senate DFL, and Governor Walz rooted in our key values as Minnesotans.

We believe all Minnesotans deserve access to the health care they need at a price they can afford. COVID-19 has shown us exactly how much this matters, but too many people are squeezed by health care greed. We will continue building a foundation to reduce prescription drug prices, strengthen care for vulnerable Minnesotans, and expand MinnesotaCare to allow anyone to buy-in to the plan. Additionally, while huge corporations continue to pad their balance sheets, regular Minnesotans and small businesses are experiencing the brunt of the pandemic's economic impact. We all deserve a fair playing field.

Everyone expects to go home safely at the end of the day. Instead, George Floyd was killed by the very people charged to protect and serve our communities. Too often, our justice system falls short of delivering fairness, justice and the opportunity for redemption, especially for Black, Indigenous, and communities of color. It's time to reimagine policing and criminal justice through an equity-focused lens ensuring safety for everyone, no exceptions.

I invite you to learn more about MVP here [\[INSERT LINK\]](#). This effort isn't meant to necessarily focus on a particular policy or piece of legislation, but rather continue a conversation with Minnesotans about what will help their families and communities succeed. What would you like to see from the Legislature to make this a reality? Please feel free to reach out to me anytime with your input and ideas.

These are difficult times, but we've overcome adversity before. Minnesota is a great place to live, but we need to continue removing barriers to ensure this is true for everybody, no matter where they live or what they look like. Working together, we can build a better future for all Minnesotans.



## Sample Letter to the Editor

### *Building a Better Future for All Minnesotans*

**[DATE]**

To the Editor,

At the Minnesota Legislature, my colleagues and I in the DFL House have been working together with Minnesotans across all backgrounds to help strengthen our communities. Throughout our state, Minnesotans want to see each other succeed — a belief that is at the core of our Minnesota Values Project (MVP).

MVP is our initiative to engage legislators, Minnesotans, and community groups in a conversation about the future of our state. Through MVP, we're crafting solutions that take on the extreme racial and economic inequities in our state, ensuring corporations and the richest Minnesotans contribute their fair share, and building a state government that delivers on strong public schools and affordable health care.

We've made progress these past two years, but several crucial pieces of legislation were outright blocked by the Republican-controlled Senate, including paid family and medical leave, common sense gun violence prevention measures, and a dynamic clean energy infrastructure. Despite these obstructions, I remain committed to championing these causes and other issues that build the future Minnesotans deserve.

You can find more information and ways to get involved with MVP at **[INSERT LINK]**. To read up on my work during the last legislative biennium and our ongoing efforts, follow along at [house.mn/\[PATHNAME\]](#), or on my official Facebook page: [facebook.com/\[PATHNAME\]](#). Please feel free to reach out with any input you may have.

It's an honor to represent our community in the Minnesota House.

Sincerely,

**[MEMBER NAME]**

State Representative



## Sample Letter to the Editor

### *Envisioning a Minnesota That Reflects Our Values*

**[DATE]**

Dear Neighbors,

It's an honor to represent you and our community at the Minnesota Capitol.

In my time at the community and the legislature, I have brought people together to create positive partnerships to solve complex problems for things we as Minnesotans care about. I've made this collaborative approach a priority in my work as your state representative.

DFL State Representatives and Senators have launched an important new initiative called the Minnesota Values Project to gather ideas and input from Minnesotans in every corner of the state for a new direction — grounded in our values — to make Minnesota a better place for everyone, no exceptions. Working together, we can strengthen our communities by improving opportunities for all — affordable childcare, healthcare, and prescription medication, racial justice initiatives, critical investments that ensure our youngest learners get off to a great start, and economic security for our families, seniors, veterans, and hardworking Minnesota residents.

I care about what is important to you and your family. Your input helps guide my decisions as we make Minnesota an even better place to live, work, and raise a family. We all deserve to live in a place that allows us to breathe, live, and thrive equitably. Learn more about how you can contribute to the Minnesota Values Project at **[INSERT LINK]**.

To stay in touch on state legislative matters, please sign up to receive my e-newsletters at [house.mn/\[PATHNAME\]](https://house.mn/[PATHNAME]) or you can like my Facebook page, [facebook.com/\[PATHNAME\]](https://facebook.com/[PATHNAME]), for additional updates.

Sincerely,

**[MEMBER NAME]**

State Representative