Freedom from Violence Act TM

Producers, purveyors, profiteers, and consumers of violence must pay for damages sustained.

October 2026

To: Advocates for the prevention of ALL violence

From: Karen Olson Johnson, Executive Director, Twin Cities Nonviolent

(Board endorsed action, 9/12/26)
Thomas Harens- author, ***Freedom from Violence Act*** (2013)

Re: Discuss and act upon the mission and legislative elements of ***Freedom from Violence Act***

PLEASE consider supporting the introduction and passage of this landmark legislation.

Thank you.

The Freedom from Violence Act will carry out the following:

1. Quantify the cost, revenue, and profit from products of violence – guns, toys, video games, movies, TV shows, advertisements and more and
2. Establish a fee/damage assessment for levy on producers and consumers of violent products.

Thankfully, it is now rare to see someone smoking in a public or private setting. It is no longer culturally acceptable to make, sell, advertise, or buy cigarettes. The anti-smoking movement has saved millions of lives and billions of public and private dollars by driving a high-profile cultural shift. We can and must do similar actions for the pervasive culture of violence. It makes no sense that citizens pay for the impacts of violence while those that profit from violence are not paying the costs of what they market.

Frankly, we have not made much progress in gun violence violence prevention and overall violence in our society in the last 50 years. In fact, guns and violence and profits from the carnage have exponentially increased. And, while banning assault weapons and increasing background checks are vital efforts, we need far bigger and bolder approach. We must orchestrate the national conversation to be about our "culture of violence" and the devastation that guns cause and cost all of us. We must do what the anti-smoking industry carried out over many years. The Freedom From Violence Act will show to the the public the astronomical cost and the apocryphal damages that the industries of violence have done on a financial level. We use the moneys of the industries of violence to pay for damages. Those who produce violent means, will pay to address this violence with the material matters of active nonviolence.

The Freedom from Violence Act is a bold, high profile, controversial national legislative drive. The Freedom From Violence act will propel a movement, pushing the birth of other nonviolent legislative action. **We expect Minnesota to be the first in the nation to introduce this legislation and pass it. ©**

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