

Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

I am here today because I believe it is immensely important that Americans be told an important truth:

Tim Walz's record on crime in Minnesota is one of catastrophic failure. Thanks to Tim Walz Minnesota is now a state where the criminals run free and the cops run for cover. And if Tim Walz is elected to the vice presidency, America should prepare for the violence that has gripped Minnesota to go national.

Let me begin by sharing a deeply personal story, one that brings the reality of Minnesota's crime crisis into sharp focus. In January 2021, I received a phone call from my sister who lives in Minneapolis, and I could immediately hear the fear in her voice. She told me that as she was cleaning up in her kitchen after breakfast that morning, gunshots rang out right next to her home. Looking out the window, she saw a man firing at police officers, who were returning fire.

She dropped to the floor, heart racing, as the shots continued to be exchanged. A police officer banged on her door, yelling that he needed to get her out of her home to protect her from stray bullets. Together, they ran behind her garage, where the officer used his own body as a shield to protect her. Miraculously, no one was killed that day, but her home was left with bullet holes, including the bedroom prepared for foster children she was set to take in.

This was not an isolated incident. It's just one story from a city—and a state—where violent crime has spiraled out of control. Minneapolis, once a vibrant city known for its strong communities, descended into chaos in 2020 and 2021 and has not recovered. Under Tim Walz, the streets of Minneapolis went from being a place to walk your dog to a place to dodge bullets. And that crime has not stopped at the edge of Minneapolis but has deeply affected all of Minnesota.

And Tim Walz is responsible.

A Catastrophic Response to the George Floyd Riots

Let's go back to the summer of 2020. The death of George Floyd sparked protests nationwide, but nowhere was the impact felt more acutely than in Minneapolis. What started as peaceful protests quickly devolved into riots, and the city descended into chaos. And Governor Walz's refusal to deploy the National Guard for days allowed the violence to escalate unchecked. While the flames of chaos were engulfing his city, Walz froze like a deer in the headlights—only, in this case, the headlights were Molotov cocktails.

And so Minneapolis burned. Businesses were looted, buildings set ablaze, and residents terrorized. By the time Walz finally made the decision to call in the National Guard, the damage had already been done. The cost? More than \$500 million in property damage, making it the second-costliest instance of local unrest in U.S. history, behind only the 1992 Los Angeles riots.

But the financial toll pales in comparison to the human cost. Lives were lost. Communities were shattered. And the trust that Minnesotans once had in their leaders to protect them was eroded. Governor Walz's failure to act decisively allowed this destruction to continue, and it's a failure Minnesotans will remember for generations. In addition to the devastation in Minnesota, Tim Walz's failure to swiftly quell the violence during the George Floyd riots had far-reaching consequences. His inability to take decisive action and restore order in Minneapolis set a dangerous precedent that reverberated across the nation. As other cities watched Minneapolis burn with little response from state leadership, they, too, saw their streets erupt in chaos. From Portland to New York, cities across the country experienced widespread violence, looting, and unrest, emboldened by the lack of leadership in Minnesota. Walz's paralysis during this critical moment contributed to a national wave of disorder, as the rioting inspired other malefactors and communicated to the world that lawlessness would be tolerated.

The year of 2020 demonstrated that Tim Walz has mastered one leadership skill: the art of standing idly by while his state spirals into chaos. I must ask: if Governor Walz couldn't muster the courage to defend his own backyard, how on earth can we expect him to protect an entire nation?

Crime Continues to Soar Under Walz

Fast forward to today, and Minnesota remains in the grip of a violent crime wave. The statistics are damning. During Tim Walz's governorship, crime rates in Minneapolis have soared. Homicides are up by 70%, and gunshot victims have doubled.

Statewide, the situation isn't much better. Murders in St. Paul have doubled, and crime has spilled into the suburbs, affecting Minnesotans far beyond the urban core. For the first time in Minnesota's history, Minnesota is a high-crime state. Homicides and gun violence have skyrocketed and under Walz's watch Minnesota went from the land of 10,000 lakes to the land of 10,000 carjackings.

As the leader of an organization representing small businesses across Minnesota, I've seen firsthand the devastating impact of rising crime on our local entrepreneurs and their employees. Businesses that were once thriving are now grappling with break-ins, theft, and vandalism at unprecedented levels. Many business owners are forced to divert resources toward security measures rather than their business, with some even closing their doors for good. The crime surge under Governor Walz's watch isn't just a statistic—it's a daily reality that's crushing the backbone of Minnesota's economy.

Illegal Immigration

Governor Tim Walz's embrace of illegal immigration policies has only added to the broader crime crisis plaguing Minnesota. By passing legislation that grants free college and healthcare to illegal immigrants, providing drivers' licenses to those here unlawfully, and supporting his party's push to make Minnesota a sanctuary state, Walz has created an environment that invites lawlessness. These policies not only strain already limited resources but also undermine the rule of law, further contributing to the sense of disorder gripping the state. At a time when Minnesota's streets are

overrun with crime, Walz is busy handing out taxpayer-funded freebies to those here illegally—while law-abiding citizens are left wondering who’s looking out for them.

The Minnesota Freedom Fund and Kamala Harris’s Support

One of the most egregious examples of Walz’s failed leadership was the Minnesota Freedom Fund—a group that raised millions of dollars in the wake of the George Floyd riots to bail out violent criminals. Vice President Kamala Harris, who was then a senator, publicly encouraged people to donate to this fund. And what did that money go toward? Bailing out individuals charged with serious crimes, including rape, assault, and attempted murder. In one shocking instance, the Minnesota Freedom Fund bailed out George Howard, a man who had been charged with domestic assault. Just weeks after his release, Howard went on to murder Luis Damian Martinez Ortiz in a road rage incident. This tragic event demonstrated the recklessness of the fund’s mission and the devastating consequences of bailing out dangerous individuals. Thanks to Kamala Harris’s favorite charity, violent offenders got a get-out-of-jail-free card—and Minnesotans paid the price with their lives.

Yet Governor Walz remained silent. This should have been a moment of leadership—a moment where Walz could have stood up and said, “This is not the way forward.” Instead, he stood idly by as his party and Kamala Harris herself undermined public safety. When violent criminals are bailed out with the governor’s silent blessing and Kamala Harris’s endorsement, it’s not just reckless—it’s a ticking time bomb.

Tim Walz’s Cowardice in the Face of Radicalism

This pattern of inaction is not limited to the riots or the Minnesota Freedom Fund. Throughout his tenure, Walz has consistently refused to stand up to the radicals in the Minnesota Democrat Party, even as they push policies that put Minnesotans at risk.

There was of course the defund-the-police movement, launched into orbit by the Minneapolis City Council and ultimately recklessly embraced by politicians nationwide, including members of Congress and, I am sorry to say a member of this Subcommittee, Congresswoman Cory Bush. The defund-the-police movement resulted in countless lives lost nationwide, and Tim Walz refused to stand up to it.

Or take the case of Mary Moriarty, the chief prosecutor for Hennepin County, Minnesota’s most populous county. Moriarty has built a reputation as one of the most radical district attorneys in the country, with a soft-on-crime agenda that directly endangers the public. Her policies and decisions reflect an alarming disregard for public safety, prioritizing coddling violent criminals instead of justice for victims.

I should also note, particularly on September 11 as we commemorate that terrible day on which so many police officers and other first responders demonstrated such remarkable heroism, the remarkable hostility Moriarty has shown to law enforcement throughout her tenure. Among Moriarty’s most despicable actions was the attempted prosecution of Minnesota State Trooper

Ryan Londregan. After Londregan lawfully discharged his weapon during a dangerous confrontation with an armed suspect – and convicted violent felon – in the summer of 2023, Moriarty inexplicably charged him with murder, ignoring the clear and imminent threat that Londregan and his partner faced. This was a baseless prosecution. Moriarty was intent upon prosecuting a cop no matter the facts and no matter the law. Following immense opposition from law enforcement, public safety advocates, and even members of her own office, and, more importantly, the disclosure of key facts Moriarty had tried to hide from the public, Moriarty was forced to drop the charges. However, the damage was done. The case sent a chilling message to police officers across Minnesota: even when acting within the law to protect themselves and the public, they could still find themselves unjustly targeted.

As governor, Tim Walz had the exclusive authority to remove this baseless prosecution from an out-of-control county attorney hell-bent on persecuting a decorated member of law enforcement – as he was encouraged to do in a bi-partisan request of six Minnesota Members of Congress. Instead, as with so much else, Tim Walz couldn't find the courage to stand up and do what was right. Instead, he stood with the radicals rather than our law enforcement professionals.

Governor Walz's silence throughout this debacle and in the face of other indefensible conduct by members of his party was deafening, further solidifying his pattern of enabling radicals.

Governor Walz treats law enforcement like an afterthought—just like the safety of his own citizens. If this is what 'leadership' looks like, we can't afford any more of it.

The National Consequences of Walz as Vice President

As we consider the possibility of Tim Walz being elevated to the role of Vice President, we must ask ourselves a critical question: What kind of leadership can America expect from a man whose legacy in Minnesota is defined by chaos and failure? Based on his track record, the answer is clear. More hesitation in moments of crisis. More capitulation to radical agendas. More policies that weaken our police forces while empowering criminals. If Walz becomes Vice President, we'll see his disastrous Minnesota model exported to the entire nation. We'll witness violent criminals bailed out instead of held accountable, police departments defunded instead of supported, and lawlessness left to flourish unchecked, all while innocent Americans pay the price.

Conclusion

Governor Walz's record on crime is not just a local problem; it's a warning for the entire country. If he couldn't protect the people of Minnesota, how can we possibly trust him to protect the people of the United States? Under his leadership, Minnesotans have suffered from soaring crime, weakened law enforcement, and reckless policies that put their safety at risk. And if Walz is elevated to the national stage, the rest of the country could soon follow.

Minnesota deserves better than Tim Walz. And so does America.

Thank you.