



April 5, 2022

Senate File 2673 – Omnibus Public Safety supplemental budget bill

Senate Finance Committee

Dear Senators,

The Minnesota Business Partnership is a membership organization of more than 100 CEOs and senior executives from homegrown employers across the state, employing more than half a million workers in Minnesota. Community safety is extremely important to our members and their employees.

We support policies and appropriations intended to enhance the safety of Minnesotans as they go about their daily lives. Regarding Senate File 2673, I would like to highlight a few provisions that we support and fit within the framework of past letters we have sent to Legislative leaders.

Funding to local jurisdictions to purchase body-worn cameras and maintain storage capacity for body-worn camera footage will help enhance transparency of officer conduct and hopefully encourage greater public trust in those charged with keeping us safe.

At a time of critical staffing shortages for local law enforcement agencies, funding for the training, recruitment, and retention of highly qualified law enforcement personnel is critical - especially bonuses for officers providing exemplary service to their communities.

More funding for law enforcement training is a wise investment. Enhanced training for use of force and tactics for de-escalation will lead to better interactions between officers and the public. Training program grants to use body-worn cameras that provide a real-time review of training progress will give those entering the profession the opportunity to review their actions and provide better situational awareness once in the field.

Addressing the spike in violent crime is crucial to maintaining the livability of the Twin Cities. Funding for gunshot detection systems in Ramsey County will help officers and deputies more quickly respond to potentially violent incidents in Saint Paul and surrounding communities. Enhanced funding for Violent Crime Enforcement Teams will help address surging violent crime through a multi-jurisdictional approach and funding for air patrols will aid officers combating violent crime on the streets.

Lastly, increased funding for youth intervention programs is an important factor to help eliminate a lifetime of crime for minors on the wrong path. Consideration should be given to new juvenile detention programs that include wrap-around support services that get young offenders off the streets and into programs that set them on the right path as they grow into contributing members of the community.

Thank you for your consideration of these critical public safety issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D Dwight". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dan Dwight

Health Policy Director

Minnesota Business Partnership