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TO: Chair Warren Limmer

Members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

FROM: Chris Steward, Heroes Helping Heroes

DATE: March 29, 2022

RE: SF2673 – Omnibus Public Safety and Supplemental Funding Bill

The purpose of this letter is to thank you for including the Heroes Helping Heroes language in your omnibus bill. I believe that the hearing went well and that committee members showed support. The comradery and bond that the injured participants of this program establish is truly amazing. Not only does this experience enable many law enforcement officers and other first responders to return to work, but it has also undoubtedly saved lives.

With your support, and the support of this Committee, we can continue to grow and help even more first responders across the state. Not only will this allow us to have a positive impact in the lives of our first responders, but also the lives of their families and the communities in which they are a part of and serve.

At a time where staffing shortage is at, or near, an all-time low for most departments, it is more important now than ever to help our brave men and women get the help they so desperately need and deserve. The help they will receive from Heroes Helping Heroes will allow them to continue in a profession they love and to continue to serve communities across the state who are seeing violent crime at an unprecedented level.

To help get this out-of-control crime back under control, we need Law Enforcement professionals to be mentally fit and able to tackle this problem head on. This is why I am respectfully asking for the support of, not only this Committee, but the support of the entire Senate to approve funding for Heroes Helping Heroes.