



POLICE DEPARTMENT
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Senator Ron Latz
3105 Senate Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Latz,

As chief of police for the City of Minnetonka, I am writing to urge your support and hear SF 1087 in committee this session. The bill is authored by Sen. Cwodzinski and provides specialty training for counselors to better serve law enforcement officers in distress. I believe that the more we support public safety professionals in their health and well-being, the better they will be able to develop coping strategies and handle critical incidents with greater success.

Police departments across the country are seeing the growing need to support mental health and wellness of police officers, to improve officer recruitment and retention, and to promote better public safety outcomes. Studies focused on the efficacy of mental health and wellness programs identify trust as a major determinant of whether officers engage in wellness and mental health services.

Most mental health resources available to police officers lack understanding of the cultural and behavioral landscape of law enforcement, which limits their ability to provide quality services to this population. Receiving help from specially trained counselors will make law enforcement personnel less likely to leave police work and/or experience less family dysfunctions, and reduce the number of police suicides.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Boerboom'.

Scott Boerboom
Chief of Police
City of Minnetonka