



March 23, 2023

Re: MSA and MCPA Position on SF839

Dear Members of the Senate:

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs and 87 county sheriffs, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA) are concerned about several aspects of Senate File 839 as currently drafted.

Both of our associations have been at the table for years now discussing these proposals with members of the House and the Senate. The legislature should be focused on funding public safety needs across the state given the historic needs we have. We have the following concerns with the bill:

- We have concerns over the changes to the Philando Castile Training funds. We first and foremost feel that these funds should not sunset. Any modification to these funds should start with eliminating the sunset for these important training areas.
- Our associations have opposed putting specific body worn camera policies into statute. We have held this position since we worked with the legislature to enact the BWC statute several years ago. The current bill starting on lines 23.6 would require officers to wear their cameras at essentially all times. We feel this mandate is unnecessary and is best handled in department policy which is more in depth to handle the complexities of the job.
- The law is clear on how this data is to be maintained and protections under the law already exist making the changes on 15.1 unnecessary.
- The authority to create civilian review boards already exists. We strongly oppose the extreme new powers granted to these boards under the bill including subpoena power, compelling CLEO's to cooperate and help these boards achieve their goals.
- Lastly, we do not believe that the central storage of BWC data is feasible and the data should remain with the local agencies. This money would be better spent on grants to more agencies that need the technology.

Sincerely,

Jeff Potts
Executive Director

James Stuart
Executive Director

Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association

Minnesota Sheriffs Association