



March 28, 2023

Chair Ron Latz
Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

RE: SF 2909 (Latz) – Omnibus judiciary and public safety finance and policy

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities' 838 member cities, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SF 2909 as amended by the A-2, the omnibus judiciary and public safety finance and policy bill.

While the League is tracking dozens of provisions of importance to cities in this bill, I am writing to highlight support for the following provisions:

- Youth Intervention Programs (lines 14.33-15.3, 55.11-56.3);
- Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Training Grants (lines 17.15-18.12);
- First Responder Wellness Office (22.4-22.8)

The League has significant concerns with provisions in Article 3, Section 14 (lines 49.31-50.31) and Article 3, Section 57 (lines 92.1-92.6) that would retroactively expand “killed in the line of duty” to include disabling cancers linked to carcinogens. As drafted, this provision pertains to all public safety officers, including law enforcement, regardless of job-related exposure to carcinogens. It provides a benefit to employees without consideration of non-job-related risks (tobacco use, outside occupational exposure, family health history, etc.). The continued health insurance cost for the spouses and dependents of this benefit would dramatically increase the fiscal note of another important bill, SF 1959, a bill containing policy and funding provisions to address public safety duty disabilities. The League opposes adding cancers to the definition of “killed in the line of duty.”

The League looks forward to working with you as this legislation advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Anne Finn'.

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director