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Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100

Phone: 651.201.7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555

dps.mn.gov

April 25th, 2024

Chair Marty and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

The Department of Public Safety works to serve all communities and build a safer Minnesota. The critical investments included in the Governor's and Lt. Governor's public safety supplemental budget come directly listening to the needs of Minnesotans. I am grateful for the important funding in SF 5337, and I want to thank Chair Latz and the Senate Judiciary Committee members and their staff for their work.

This bill includes deeply needed funding for crime victim services. Both this bill and the Governor's and Lt. Governor's bill provide a one-time boost to this fund. As you know, the level of funding for these vital services provided by the federal government has been devastatingly reduced, and Minnesota has stepped up to assist with the gap. This week is National Crime Victims' Rights week. The important investment in this bill helps ensure that past funding will continue and help fund service providers for another year - who are a valued part of our public safety system.

This bill also includes the updated administrative cost for the youth intervention program grant program is a small change but will have a significant impact. Grant programs are complex and work best when effectively managed. Changing the administrative costs to match similar grant programs will set DPS and the new Department of Children, Youth, and Families up for success when the program moves there in 2025.

The changes made to the nonresponsible party fund eligibility will allow for the Urban Search and Rescue, and Minnesota Air Rescue teams to access funds needed when necessary. The funding was provided last year, and the teams are made up of mostly local agencies who go outside of their geographic boundaries to help Minnesotans.

The Department of Public Safety supports this bill. We will continue to work with the bill author, committee members, and remarkable staff to ensure this bill has all the details right, can be effectively administered, and accomplishes the committee's goals. Thank you for your strong support of public safety and Investment's to move our mission forward. Working together to uplift the hardworking professionals who have chosen careers in public safety is critical.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Jacobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Commissioner Jacobson
Minnesota Department of Public Safety