



February 19, 2024

Senator Bonnie Westlin
Representative Cedrick Frazier

RE: SF 3534/HF 3489--School resource officer (SRO) legislation

Dear Senator Westlin and Representative Frazier,

Thank you for authoring legislation aimed at clarifying the roles and duties of school resource officers (SROs). While our organizations do not advise cities on whether to take part in SRO programs, we support the authority cities and school districts have to enter into agreements for the purpose of keeping schools safe. Our hope is the final version of this bill will support school safety and other important objectives of police/school relations, while minimizing potential civil and criminal liability risks created by ambiguity in the current law.

The legislation provides clarity around key issues. Our organizations support provisions in the bill that make it clear SROs are not employees or agents of school districts and are not present in school settings for school disciplinary purposes. We also appreciate the provision clarifying SROs have explicit authority provided in Minn. Stat. § 609.06, the state statute governing use of force.

We have reviewed the author's amendment that may be offered this week and we believe it strengthens the bill by addressing concerns we previously raised about the "duties" provisions in section 9 of the bill. We appreciate you listening to our concerns and addressing them with the amendment, and we look forward to helping you advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Anne Finn
Intergovernmental Relations Director
League of Minnesota Cities

Patricia Nauman
Executive Director
Metro Cities

Bradley Peterson
Executive Director
Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

Cap O'Rourke
Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Small Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hovland', with a horizontal line underneath.

James Hovland
Mayor of Edina
President
Municipal Legislative Commission

Cc: Governor Tim Walz
Speaker of the House Melissa Hortman
Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy
House Minority Leader Lisa Demuth
Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson