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April 19, 2024

Chair Latz, Vice Chair Oumou Verbeten and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) works to serve all communities and build a safer Minnesota. The investments included in the Governor's and Lt. Governor's public safety supplemental budget bill, and this committee's bill comes after a historic public safety budget last year. Last year's public safety bill has already improved and will continue to enhance public safety all across Minnesota.

I appreciate this committee's dedication to funding 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. Thank you for including this in your bill and ensuring that past funding will continue and help fund service providers for another year - who are a part of our public safety system.

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. Updating the definition of Urban Search and Rescue keeps Minnesota in line with national standards and allows DPS to better classify the teams.

The Department of Public Safety is supportive of this bill. We will continue to work with the bill author, committee members, and truly 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. 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".

Commissioner Jacobson
Minnesota Department of Public Safety