



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

April 10, 2025

Chair Latz, Lead Limmer, and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs in our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) is grateful for the opportunity to provide feedback to the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

We would like to take a moment to thank the committee for the following sections included from the policy portion of the bill: first responder buffer zone guidelines; the use of a mobile tracking device on a fleeing motor vehicle; and federal background checks by political subdivisions.

The continuation of the training funds is our Association's number one priority, and the \$6 million appropriation is critical to prepare officers in order to bring the highest quality police services and leadership to the people of Minnesota.

MCPA is incredibly disappointed by the \$5 million cut in both years to the Philando Castile Memorial Training Fund. This appropriation is vitally important for an agency's ability to reimburse costs related to law enforcement training courses required under Minn. Stats. §§ 626.8452 (use of force), 626.8469 (training in crisis response, conflict management, and cultural diversity) and 626.8474 (autism training).

70 percent of police departments in Minnesota have fewer than 20 officers. For most small agencies, the Fund represents their sole source of training funds. If this appropriation does not continue, officers will not be in compliance with the training requirements set by the legislature. We believe the training requirements mentioned above play a significant role in developing and maintaining relationships with communities and their local peace officers by preparing officers with the necessary skills to address any situation they may encounter in the field.

We thank the chair for the collaboration that went into this bill and always appreciate the committee's engagement with MCPA. We look forward to working with the author as the bill progresses and beyond.

Respectfully,

Jeff Potts
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association