



DATE: May 11, 2026

Letter in Support of 4276 (Frentz) / HF 4074 (Lillie)

Chair Marty and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA), the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Agents Association (BCAAA), and the Minnesota Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Agents Association (FAAA) collectively represent more than 8,800 law enforcement officers, firefighters, and public safety professionals across Minnesota.

On behalf of Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), we respectfully urge your support for SF 4276 (Frentz) / HF 4074 (Lillie), the 2026 pension omnibus bill as recommended by the Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement (LCPR).

This legislation represents an important and overdue step toward restoring fairness for Minnesota's public safety professionals who dedicate their careers to protecting our communities. Specifically, the bill eliminates the additional one-year delay before newly retired PERA Police and Fire members become eligible for a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), bringing the plan into alignment with other Minnesota State Retirement System (MSRS).

For law enforcement officers and firefighters, retirement security is not an abstract policy issue — it is a promise made after decades of physically demanding, high-risk public service. In 2018, public safety employees accepted significant pension concessions under the principle of shared sacrifice in order to strengthen the long-term stability of the fund. Those sacrifices included reduced COLA benefits and delayed adjustments that have had a lasting impact on retirees' purchasing power, particularly during periods of elevated inflation and rising healthcare costs.

Eight years later, it is appropriate that the Legislature now restore a portion of what these public servants previously gave up to protect the system. Removing the additional COLA waiting period is a measured, fiscally responsible correction that will provide meaningful relief to future retirees while honoring the commitments made to those who served.

Minnesota continues to face significant recruitment and retention challenges in law enforcement and public safety. Competitive compensation and reliable retirement benefits are essential tools for attracting qualified individuals and retaining experienced officers throughout a full career. A strong pension system is not simply a retirement benefit — it is a workforce stability and public safety issue.

Minnesota's public safety professionals have upheld their end of the bargain. We respectfully ask the Legislature to do the same by advancing SF 4276 and continuing to strengthen the retirement security of the men and women who serve our state every day.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support of Minnesota's public safety workforce.

Respectfully,

Jim Mortenson
Executive Director
LELS

Jason Theel
President
MSPTA

Michael Flanagan
President
BCAAA

Ben Uzlik
President
FAAA