



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

April 10, 2017

The Honorable Sarah Anderson
Chair
State Government Finance Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
583 State Office Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Chair Anderson:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the Governor's Office proposed budget for the next biennium. We have serious concerns about your State Government Finance omnibus bill that we would like to share with you.

Your bill reduces the budget of the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor by over a million dollars per fiscal year or two million dollars over the biennium. This is a twenty percent decrease to our funding. This directly impacts our ability to provide needed services at our current levels of efficiency.

Additionally, you have added language that limits our ability to enter into inter-agency agreements, reduces the scope of those agreements and restricts our ability to hire staff. Your changes will reduce the flexibility needed by the Office of the Governor to respond to emergencies, delay extradition processing, and greatly extend our constituent contact response time.

As you know, our Office is audited by the Office on the Legislative Auditor every two years. The OLA reviews all of our inter-agency agreements, as well as all of our expenditures and reimbursements. The Legislature, by contrast, does not follow the same process.

We encourage you to fully fund the Office of the Governor and Lt. Governor at our requested level, which included no increase over the past biennium and to remove your restrictions on the Governor's Office ability to enter into inter-agency agreements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jaime Tincher".

Jaime Tincher
Chief of Staff

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Amanda Simpson".

Amanda Simpson
Director of Operations