

June 16, 2020

The Honorable Warren Limmer  
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee



Dear Chair Limmer:

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs and another nearly 200 deputy chiefs and command staff across our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) is renewing its calls for legislative action on key police reform measures. As you know, our organization has long been a strong advocate for several of the proposals being discussed both locally and nationally, and we will continue to be a loud voice for meaningful changes to the profession.

The MCPA supports the bills before your committee, including:

- Continuing state funding for peace officer training in crisis intervention, conflict management and mediation and cultural competency
- Updating the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Board use-of-force policy, specifically to include “duty to intercede” and “duty to report” mandates for officers
- Limiting admissibility of statements made during public safety peer support sessions and critical incident stress management services
- Expanding access to information for law enforcement hiring
- Requiring law enforcement use-of-force reporting requirements

We respectfully ask you to consider changing laws governing collective bargaining agreements that impede discipline and termination of officers who seriously betray the public trust. We also think it’s important for the legislature to empower the Police Officers Standards and Training (POST) Board, at the request of a chief or sheriff, to review and revoke the professional license of an officer who shows a pattern of failing to follow public policy.

Following the brutal death of George Floyd that horrified, saddened and appalled our members, we pledge to continue our commitment to these key reform measures. We must make real changes urgently to ensure that officers receive the training necessary to prevent biased policing and inappropriate use of force and are held accountable when they happen.

As community leaders, we look forward to working with lawmakers, citizens and stakeholders to improve officer accountability, trust in the policing profession and public safety services in communities across our state.

Sincerely,

Andy Skoogman/Executive Director  
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association