



## MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

Senator Julie Rosen  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
State Office Bldg., Room 139  
St. Paul, MN 55155-1206

May 2, 2016

Dear Senator Rosen,

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs in our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) stands in support of Senate File 1425, a bill that would allow pharmacies in Minnesota to voluntarily take back and destroy unwanted prescription painkillers and other medications.

The passage of this lifesaving bill might be more important today than ever before.

The *Star Tribune* newspaper reported on April 30, 2016 that 336 deaths in 2015 were linked to excessive or abusive use of prescription opioids or illicit opioids. That's six times greater than the opioid-related deaths in 2000 and an increase from 313 deaths in 2014. Two-thirds of the deaths last year involved legal painkillers or the addiction treatment methadone.

Senate File 1425 will help address both the temptations and dangers posed by unused medications sitting in cupboards and cabinets. Many law enforcement agencies in our state already have medicine disposal boxes in their lobbies. But, if pharmacies also set up similar drop boxes, it will be easier and more convenient for Minnesotans to properly dispose of their unused medications.

Although we believe a mandatory drug take-back law is the best solution, the passage of Senate File 1425 is a good start toward reversing the disturbing trend of opiate-related deaths in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Andy Skoogman  
Executive Director, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association