



Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc.

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March 8, 2022

To: Representative Carlos Mariani, Chair, House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Committee and Representative Brian Johnson, ranking member

RE: Opposition of House File XXX (Long), Public Safety Related PTSD Reform

Dear Chair Mariani, Ranking Member Johnson, and Members of the Committee:

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS) is Minnesota's largest public safety labor union (6,700+ members) specializing in representing law enforcement, fire, dispatch, corrections, and public safety support staff throughout the state.

LELS opposes House File XXXX (Long), Public Safety Related PTSD Reform, as currently written.

We appreciate the author's interest in working through issues related to PTSD duty disabilities. There are many inherent dangers faced by peace officers and firefighters in the line of duty that sometimes lead to physical and mental injuries.

However, the bill, as currently written, has many significant problematic areas that do not logistically or legally work for employees and employers to help assist those with PTSD.

For example, one significant problematic area with the current bill is that it does not include language that requires a claim to be approved by Worker's Comp. Another significant concern is it also does not include language that the employee would be paid while going through 32 weeks of mandated treatment. A third significant concern is that it would require the employee to receive approval from Worker's Comp at the end of the 32 weeks of treatment before they can apply for a Duty Disability Pension.

Currently, employers are initially denying nearly 100% of workers compensation claims for PTSD, leaving little choice for those affected of how to proceed. Changing the process legislatively, WITHOUT review by the Workers Compensation Advisory Committee, is not a thoughtful progression for major changes.

Sincerely,

Jim Mortenson
Executive Director
Law Enforcement Labor Services