



March 7, 2023

Dear Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

NAMI Minnesota supports HF 1234 which will provide support and treatment to first responders who develop PTSD. We believe this is an important bill that will help people heal.

First responders regularly are exposed to traumatic events and life-threatening situations. We know that the prevalence of PTSD is higher compared to the general population. We also know that PTSD is treatable.

HF 1234 places a strong focus on the possibility of recovery and recognizes the barriers that peace officers face – not being able to work due to PTSD – but wanting to go back to work. Providing another path- other than full disability - is a good alternative. There are many studies demonstrating the importance of employment in recovering from a mental illness.

The bill provides enough flexibility to provide treatment as long as needed and allows people to come back to work when they are able and for the number of hours that they can.

We appreciate your work on this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Sue Abderholden", written over a white background.

Sue Abderholden, MPH  
Executive Director

