



To: Minnesota House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee Chair Jamie Becker-Finn and members  
From: Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition  
Date: February 22, 2021  
Re: Opposition to House File 717 (Vang): Civil statute of limitations extended for peace officer actions

Dear Chair Becker-Finn and members of House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee:

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), and the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) represent more than 300 police chiefs, 87 county sheriffs, and approximately 10,400 rank-and-file officers, respectively.

On behalf of Minnesota's three largest statewide law enforcement associations, we are writing to respectively convey our opposition to House File 717 (Vang).

Statutes of limitation are designed to promote justice by encouraging plaintiffs to diligently pursue their claims. Timeliness is important - as without it, evidence could be lost, memories could fade, and witnesses may disappear. In addition, House File 717 does not appear to limit the application to damages caused solely while on duty. The language creates potential lifelong liability for anyone serving or who has served as a law enforcement officer.

In conclusion, our Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition strongly supports fairness and efficacy of the civil justice system and does not support House File 717.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters  
Executive Director, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

Bill Hutton  
Executive Director, Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

Jeff Potts  
Executive Director, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association