



OFFICE OF THE RAMSEY COUNTY ATTORNEY

John J. Choi

February 28, 2023

Representative Cedrick Frazier  
439 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**RE: HF1406 Aiding and Abetting Murder Reform**

Dear Representative Frazier,

I support legislation that reforms Minnesota's aiding and abetting statutes as applied to certain murder cases by either limiting liability or changing how these cases are sentenced. In Minnesota, someone can be convicted and sentenced to life in prison for intentional first-degree murder without ever intending to kill; or convicted of second-degree murder without ever intending to harm someone in any way. This can lead to unjust results that also erode confidence in our justice system. Many other states have reformed these laws to make the punishment fit actual culpability in recent years and Minnesota should join them.

HF226, Prosecutor Initiated Sentencing Adjustment, which I strongly support, would allow for some of these cases sentenced in the past to be reviewed and adjusted downward if appropriate.

I am not prepared to state that I support your bill in its current form, but I have been and will continue working with the Minnesota County Attorneys Association and our Attorney General to determine if there are language changes you would accept to address concerns prosecutors have about HF1406 as introduced.

Thank you for introducing and moving this important legislation forward.

Sincerely,

John J. Choi  
Ramsey County Attorney