



April 8, 2026

Chair Novotny, Chair Moller, and Members of the Committee,

We write on behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Sheriffs' Association, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association, and the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association to express our strong support for **House File 4700**. This bill supplements the Philando Castile Memorial Training Fund with \$6,042,000 for the 2026-2027 biennium and appropriates \$3,878,000 beginning in fiscal year 2028 and thereafter.

Last session, the Legislature did not appropriate the full funding request and removed the base appropriation funding for the coming fiscal years. This appropriation is vitally important for a law enforcement agency's ability to reimburse costs related to law enforcement training courses required under Minn. Stats. §§ 626.8452 (use of force), 626.8469 (training in crisis response, conflict management, and cultural diversity) and 626.8474 (autism training). The continuation of the training fund is critical to prepare officers in order to bring the highest quality law enforcement services and leadership to the people of Minnesota.

Our organizations support the training requirements and appreciate the state's past appropriations to assist local agencies with the compliance standards. Over 70 percent of law enforcement departments in Minnesota have fewer than 20 peace officers. For most small agencies, this funding represents their sole source of training funds. Without this funding, training will be an unfunded state mandate and become a financial burden on local property taxpayers.

If this appropriation does not continue, peace officers will not be in compliance with the training requirements set by the Legislature. We believe the training requirements mentioned above play a significant role in developing and maintaining relationships with communities and their local law enforcement by preparing peace officers with the necessary skills to address any situation they may encounter in the field.

We thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit our joint position and appreciate the dedication demonstrated through the funding allocation to provide and uphold strong policing standards in every community in Minnesota.

Thank you,

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