



May 6, 2025

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, Chair Latz, and Members of the Conference 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 support for the inclusion of \$6 million in the Senate each year and \$5.5 million in the House each year of the 2026-2027 biennium for the Philando Castile Memorial Training Fund.

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. 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 provision, the 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 Judiciary and Public Safety Conference 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,

Anne Finn  
Intergovernmental Relations Director  
League of Minnesota Cities

Jeff Potts  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association

Brian Peters  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

James Stuart  
Executive Director  
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association



## MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

May 6, 2025

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, Chair Latz and Members of the Public Safety Conference Committee:

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs in our state, the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to submit written testimony and point out sections we appreciate the inclusion of in either body's version. We urge the conference committee to include the following policy language and budget appropriations in the conference committee report.

### **Philando Castile Memorial Training Fund**

*Senate Article 2, Section 4 (b) and House Article 2, Section 4 (b)*

MCPA supports the inclusion of the \$12 million in the Senate bill and \$11 million in the House for the biennium dedicated to the Philando Castile Memorial Training Fund. We urge the committee to fully fund the \$12 million appropriation request. This appropriation is MCPA's number one priority and is vitally important for a law enforcement agency's ability to reimburse costs related to law enforcement training courses required.

### **Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training Program**

*Senate Article 2, Section 16, Subd. 8 (y) and House Article 2, Section 3, Subd. 7 (b)*

We further support the inclusion of \$5 million in 2026 in the Senate and \$2 million each year in the House to implement Intensive Comprehensive Peace Officer Education and Training Program. The MCPA supports a multi-faceted approach to helping agencies of all sizes recruit and retain officers.

### **First Responder Buffer Zone Guidelines**

*Senate Article 4, Section 16, Subd. 1*

The language would establish first responder buffer zone guidelines. This establishes guidelines to allow first responders to have space to address emergency situations when arriving at the location and gives responders the ability to do their job to the best of their ability.

### **Exemption for the Use of Mobile Tracking Devices**

*Senate Article 5, Section 16, Subd. 2c*

This creates a clarification in statute to establish an additional exemption to allow police officers the ability to utilize mobile tracking devices on fleeing motor vehicles. Once a device is deployed, the officer is able to back off from the fleeing vehicle and avoid a high speed chase that would cause a threat to the community's public safety.

We thank both committees for their collaboration throughout this session and always appreciate engagement with MCPA. We look forward to working with members as this legislation progresses and beyond.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Potts".

Jeff Potts

Executive Director, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association



**MINNESOTA JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
MINNESOTA JUDICIAL CENTER  
25 REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD.  
SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155

**JEFFREY SHORBA**  
STATE COURT ADMINISTRATOR

(651) 296-2474  
Jeff.Shorba@courts.state.mn.us

May 5, 2025

Members of the Conference Committee on H.F. 2432,

On behalf of the judges and staff of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on H.F. 2432, the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus Bill.

We appreciate the investments proposed by the House and Senate in the Judicial Branch, especially in light of the state's challenging budget situation. Given the limited resources available, we commend the committee chairs and members for their thoughtful and resourceful approach in allocating their budgets.

Nevertheless, as a co-equal branch of government, we have a duty to our employees, judges, and the people of Minnesota to secure the funding necessary to fulfill our constitutional obligations. Justice delayed is justice denied. Given the modest share of the state budget allocated to the judiciary, we respectfully urge our partners in the Executive and Legislative branches to prioritize the essential role of the courts in ensuring timely and effective justice for all Minnesotans.

**Compensation, Health Insurance and Lease Increases**

The proposed funding in these bills support a modest compensation increase, covers the employer share of anticipated healthcare cost increases, and addresses rising lease expenses at the Minnesota Judicial Center. These investments reflect the essential role that judges and court staff play in maintaining a fair and functioning justice system and help ensure that we do not need to divert resources from core court functions to cover basic operational costs.

We appreciate the House and Senate for including a compensation increase in their funding bills. At the same time, we must acknowledge that even with the compensation increases proposed in these bills, the Judicial Branch will continue to face significant compensation challenges. Judicial officer and staff salaries remain significantly behind other public-sector employers in Minnesota. This ongoing disparity puts the Judicial Branch at a competitive disadvantage and threatens our ability to maintain a

high-performing court system over the long term. We hope the Legislature will continue to work with us in the future to address these long-term challenges.

The Minnesota Judicial Branch:

- Supports the House and Senate provisions that provide ongoing funding to cover the employer share of anticipated healthcare cost increases and fund rising lease expenses at the Minnesota Judicial Center.
- Appreciates both the House and Senate providing a compensation increase. However, **the Judicial Branch urges the Conference Committee to support the Senate position, which provides a 1.5% ongoing compensation increase for both judicial officers and staff, while the House proposal includes a onetime compensation increase for employees only.**

### **Pay Increases for Forensic Examiners**

The proposed funding in the Senate bill would allow the Judicial Branch to increase payment rates for forensic examiners who provide mental health examinations in civil commitment and criminal proceedings to \$165 per hour. This critical funding will help the Judicial Branch continue to recruit and retain qualified examiners to deliver these vital services and uphold the Constitutional rights of Minnesotans.

**The Minnesota Judicial Branch urges the Conference Committee to support the Senate position for forensic examiner pay increases.**

### **Digital Accessibility and Justice Partner Access Funding**

The House bill contains onetime funding for a new Justice Partner Access application. Both the House and Senate bills contain onetime funding for compliance with federal digital accessibility standards. These investments are key to our continued efforts to promote transparency and fairness. However, both initiatives come with ongoing operational costs not currently funded in the bills. We look forward to continuing conversations on how to sustain these important efforts over the long term.

**The Minnesota Judicial Branch urges the Conference Committee to support the House and Senate positions for digital accessibility and the House position for justice partner access onetime funding.**

### **Critical Funding for Mandated Services Deficits and Cyber Security**

The House and Senate bills contain onetime funding and carry forward authority to address the rising costs and increasing deficit in the Judicial Branch Psychological Services program. The House bill provides onetime funding and carry forward authority to address the rising costs and increasing deficits in the Judicial Branch's statewide Jury program and Court Interpreter program. The judiciary is statutorily required to provide interpreters, psychological evaluations, and jury services to ensure access to justice and uphold constitutional obligations. The House bill also provides onetime funding

and carry forward authority for the branch's Cyber Security program which is vital in maintaining the security of the public, private, and sealed data involved in the judicial system.

**The Judicial Branch urges the Conference Committee to support the House and Senate positions funding the deficit in the Psychological Services program. The Judicial Branch also urges the Conference Committee to support the House position funding the deficits in the statewide Jury program and Court Interpreter program and providing additional funding for the Cyber Security program through FY2029.**

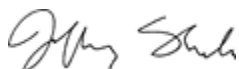
#### **Judicial Branch Policy Priorities**

The Judicial Branch supports the Judicial Branch policy provisions in both the House and Senate bills. These measures will help modernize statutory language and improve court processes for judges, staff, and court users across Minnesota. We are also especially appreciative of the inclusion of real estate provisions under the Judicial and Staff Safety and Security Act, which will help strengthen protections and improve safety for judicial officers.

**The Judicial Branch urges the Conference Committee to include the policy provisions contained in both the House and Senate bills.**

On behalf of the judges and staff of the Minnesota Judicial Branch, thank you for your continued support and partnership. We appreciate the hard work of the House and Senate Judiciary committees this session and look forward to working with the Legislature in the year ahead to address the long-term funding challenges facing our courts.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Shorba".

Jeffrey Shorba  
State Court Administrator



**Re: House File 2432 – Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus**

Dear Members of the Conference Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety,

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful work on HF2432, the Judiciary and Public Safety Policy and Finance Bill. The time and thoughtful considerations you have invested in shaping this legislation despite the difficult budgetary constraints is evident, and we are grateful for the legislature's leadership on critical issues impacting public safety and the justice system across Minnesota.

As you work to reconcile differences between the House and Senate positions, we respectfully urge you to support the following provisions that are of particular significance to our members:

**Support for a Two-Year Delay in the Sunset of Supervision Fees**

We appreciate the recognition that counties need adequate time to plan for the financial and operational implications of any changes to the current supervision fee structure. Specifically, while the community supervision formula to support these duties remains underfunded by the state. The two-year delay in the sunset provides the necessary runway for thoughtful policy design while the state works to fully fund the community supervision formula.

**Concerns About Proration of Interstate Compact Costs to Counties**

We are concerned about language that shifts financial responsibility for the interstate compact for adult offender supervision onto counties. The compact is a state-level function that ensures the safe and legal movement of individuals under supervision across state lines. Cost proration to counties, without funding to offset the cut in funding to counties and corresponding authority or oversight of the compact unit, is an inequitable approach that could undermine both fiscal accountability and supervision outcomes.

**Preservation of State Funding for the Sentencing to Service (STS) Program**

The STS program is a valued tool for counties, providing restorative justice opportunities and community benefit while holding individuals accountable. We urge the committee to prioritize and preserve the state's investment in this program to ensure it remains available statewide.

We thank you again for your commitment to improving Minnesota's public safety and justice systems. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance as the conference committee deliberates.

Sincerely,

*Emilio Lamba*

Emilio Lamba

Public Safety & Corrections Policy Analyst



To the Judiciary and Public Safety Conferees,

We, Minnesota's Six Crime Victims' Coalitions, write in strong support of the House's proposal for crime victims' services funding for the combined Public Safety and Judiciary finance package. Contained within this package is \$16 million across the biennium for crime victims' services, as well as \$2 million per year to the base funding for these services. In an atmosphere of uncertain funding, we are incredibly grateful funding has been included in this package. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chair Kelly Moller and Chair Paul Novotny for their inclusion of this funding in their bill.

Both the House and Senate bills include the establishment of a special revenue account to provide an ongoing, non-taxpayer source of revenue for Crime Victims' Services. This effort is greatly appreciated and we encourage the conferees to make this special revenue fund as robust as possible, including by amending on the provisions of HF 3230/SF 3432.

Together, our services provide shelter, advocacy, healthcare navigation, legal guidance, childcare, and more to victims of crime in Minnesota. We support domestic and sexual violence survivors and their families; we support children who have been victimized by crime; we support victims of general crime; and we assist all Minnesotans through some of the most challenging days of their lives.

Crime Victims' Services in Minnesota face an uncertain financial future. Federal spending on these services through the Victims of Crime Act has collapsed since 2018. Additionally, funding through the Violence Against Women Act remains uncertain as the Office of Violence Against Women has not released any Notices of Funding Opportunities for the current fiscal year, having pulled down all the Notices that were posted as of February 6.

In previous years, the State of Minnesota has stepped up to provide one time funding to keep our programs afloat, in the hopes that federal funding would recover. Federal funding has not recovered and we are not hopeful that it will recover any time soon. The Minnesota Office of Justice Programs has estimated that we would need about \$44 million over the biennium to stay level funded. We recognize that difficult funding position that the state is in and are incredibly grateful to have \$16 million over the biennium included in this bill. Please support our services and the House position on funding, and help us achieve a violence free Minnesota.

Thank you,

**Guadalupe Lopez** Executive Director  
Violence Free Minnesota

**Cinnamon Bankey** Executive Director  
Mending the Sacred Hoop

**Kenosha Alexander** Interim Executive Director  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Nicole Matthews** CEO  
Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

**Marcia Milliken** Executive Director  
Minnesota Children's Alliance

**Bobbi Holtberg** Executive Director  
Minnesota Alliance on Crime



May 6, 2025

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, Chair Latz and Members of the Conference Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HF 2432. Metro Cities' policies support ongoing state funding to local governments for public safety purposes, including training and equipment costs. As such, Metro Cities supports several provisions that are included in the House and Senate bills.

*Training Costs*

Metro Cities supports the \$5.5 million each year in the House and \$6 million each year in the Senate for the Philando Castile Memorial Training Fund. Law enforcement agencies throughout the metropolitan region rely on this fund to meet statutory requirements for courses on use of force, crisis response, conflict management, cultural diversity, and autism training. Without full funding, these critical training requirements become unfunded mandates for local law enforcement agencies. Metro Cities also supports the \$2 million each year in the House and \$5 million in 2026 in the Senate to implement the intensive comprehensive peace officer education and training program.

*Emergency Communication*

Metro Cities supports the \$14 million proposed to be transferred to MnDOT in both bills for costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the statewide radio system, that is included in both bills. Metro Cities further supports the \$1 million each year in the House bill for statewide public safety radio communication system equipment grants for cities and other entities participating in the statewide Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system.

*Background Check Authority*

Adequate regulation of massage therapy is an important issue for Metro Cities. We appreciate that in addition to unanimously passing the standalone bill in the House and Senate, both bodies have included expanded background check authority for cities in their omnibus bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mike Lund'.

Mike Lund  
Government Relations Specialist  
Metro Cities



# The MN Family Resiliency Partnership

Formerly Known as the MN Displaced Homemaker Program

Dear Chairs Latz and Novotny and Public Safety and Judiciary Conference Committee Members:

I am contacting you to express my support for Senator Latz's provision regarding a funding adjustment for the statewide Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership.

Included in the Senate bill is a modest increase in the portion of dissolution fees allocated to a special revenue fund for the statewide Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership (MFRP) which will stabilize our funding. **There has not been an adjustment to the program's funding level in over 22 years!** These funds will allow us to continue to provide wrap around services and long-term solutions that help break down the barriers that keep our participants and their children trapped in poverty after a major life transition like divorce, death, abandonment, or disability of a partner.

MFRP is the **only** program in the state specifically designed to provide pre-employment and family stabilization services to displaced homemakers. The services are provided by a network of six regional programs serving the state. Last year 73% of program participants were survivors of domestic violence. The support and skills offered by MFRP help these participants move toward economic self-sufficiency and are often the way to escape unsafe relationships.

Over 96% of participants successfully complete the program by attaining the goals they set at intake, which include completing an individualized self-sufficiency plan which demonstrates stability, pursuing a degree or certificate program, and/or becoming employed.

We appreciate Senator Latz's support and inclusion in the Senate bill. We request that the Committee adopt this provision.

Respectfully,

*Jean M. Keenan*

Jean M. Keenan

On Behalf of the Minnesota Family Resiliency Partnership





**Ramsey County Board of  
Commissioners**



**Office of the  
Ramsey County Attorney**



**Office of the  
Ramsey County Sheriff**



**Ramsey County  
Manager's Office**

May 5, 2025

Dear House Public Safety & Judiciary Finance Conferees,

We are deeply grateful for the State's investment in Youth Treatment Homes in Ramsey County. Your support has enabled us to pursue a bold and compassionate shift—from institutional confinement to therapeutic, community-based residences that offer young people with complex behavioral health needs a more dignified and healing environment.

We respectfully request your support in extending this critical funding through June 30, 2027. The Senate's omnibus bill includes this extension (SF 1417, Art. 2, Sec. 16) and we are advocating for its inclusion in the final Judiciary and Public Safety omnibus bill, emerging from the conference committee.

Since receiving funding in 2023 for both the homes and wraparound services, we have moved forward with purpose and care—working to build a sustainable and responsive model that aligns with the needs of our community and addresses the unique challenges inherent in this type of system change. Our approach has been deliberate, collaborative, and informed by those most impacted.

Key steps we have taken to date include:

- Assembling a legislative action team of subject matter experts to chart a path toward successful implementation in Fall of 2023.
- Leading a series of targeted community engagement sessions throughout 2024 focused on listening to youth, families, and frontline practitioners about unmet needs and how best to meet them as well as analyzing existing service providers to understand the real-world barriers and opportunities in operating homes for high-needs youth.
- Crafting a thoughtful Request for Proposals (RFP) based on this input.
- Releasing the RFP in November 2024, with selection currently underway.

Throughout this process, we have surfaced significant structural barriers, including licensing timelines of up to eight months through DHS and the difficulty of securing a vendor for this new model.

We are committed to the long-term success of these homes and the youth they are meant to serve. Extending the duration of funding through June 2027 will allow for full implementation, learning, and impact.

Thank you again for your partnership and belief in this vision. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or if additional information would be helpful.

Commissioner Rafael Ortega, Board Chair

Commissioner Rena Moran

John Choi, County Attorney

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

Ling Becker, County Manager



**TURNING LIVES AROUND.**

May 6, 2025

Dear Conference Committee Members,

I am reaching out to you today on behalf of 180 Degrees in resounding support of HF2432.

Founded in 1973, 180 Degrees operates emergency shelter, supportive housing, and outreach programs for youth and adults experiencing crisis. 180 Degrees operates four core youth programs across Minnesota, serving over 230 youth annually through shelter and case management and more than 1,000 individuals through community-based outreach, case consultation, and resource connection. In addition to shelter and housing, 180 Degrees conducts extensive outreach and prevention services, ensuring individuals receive basic needs, case consultation, resources, and referrals that increase stability and prevent further crises.

Funding for our shelters in Rochester, St. Cloud, and the west metro suburbs is crucial to allow us to continue to serve at-risk youth in these rural areas of the state where resources and services for youth experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity are extremely limited. To illustrate this further, the 180 Degrees youth shelters in St. Cloud and Rochester are the only 24-hour emergency youth shelters operating in those regions. As previous recipients of funding, we take pride in the facilities we operate and the services we provide; we would be happy to welcome any Committee members to tour our shelters and to share the outcomes we have achieved.

Continued funding for youth intervention programs is crucial for the viability of these vital, in-demand services in rural areas of the state. As such, I would like to express my full support for the Senate position relating to the funding of our programs. Thank you for continuing to be a champion for Minnesota's most vulnerable populations.

DocuSigned by:

  
A11F458F344541F...  
Dan Pfarr

President/CEO

4/30/2025

**180DEGREES.ORG**

**651-968-8908**

236 Clifton Ave South  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

1301 7th St East  
St. Paul, MN 55106

**YOUTH SHELTER AND HOUSING  
COMMUNITY RE-ENTRY  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**



## Minnesota Association of County Officers

May 6, 2025

Re: House File 2432 – Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus

Dear Members of the Conference Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety,

The Minnesota Association of County Officers (MACO) is comprised of the Minnesota County Records Association (MCRA) and the Minnesota Association of County Auditors, Treasurers, and Financial Officers (MACATFO), and represents county officers from all 87 Minnesota Counties.

MACO also includes the Vital Records Advisory Committee (VAC) whose members are responsible for processing requests related to issuance of Vital Records such as Birth, Death & Marriage certificates and Marriage Licenses in all 87 counties.

On behalf of MACO and the Vitals Records Advisory Committee, I write to request support for several marriage license/certificate provisions contained in Article 13 of the Senate language beginning on page R1A13 of the HF2432 side-by-side document. These provisions represent critical steps toward the modernization and cleanup of the Minnesota marriage statute Chapter 517 which provide much needed clarification.

Highlights of the MACO/VAC supported provisions include removing antiquated language, standardizing reports and the data collected clarifying processes for county employees and the public. An important provision will also provide the ability to amend marriage records, allowing individuals a direct and accessible avenue to resolve errors on their records without the need for legal fees or court involvement.

Thank you for your consideration of these provisions. These updates will reflect current legal standards as well as streamline processes for counties while improving service delivery to the public.

Sincerely,

*Wendy Levitt*

Wendy Levitt  
St. Louis County Recorder  
Deputy Recorder  
Minnesota Association of County Officers



May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Novotny, Chair Moller, Chair Latz, and members of the Public Safety and Judiciary Conference Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Fire Association Coalition (MNFAC), we are writing to you in support of policy language related to line of duty death benefits for firefighters contained in HF2432 First Unofficial Engrossment. MNFAC is comprised of the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association, the Minnesota State Fire Department Association, the Minnesota Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators, and the Fire Marshals Association of Minnesota.

We support the language in HF2432 UE1 in Article 2, Section 13 to include paid on-call and part-time firefighters within line of duty death benefits that was included in the Senate's omnibus bill.

Previously, the law did not specify that part-time and paid on-call firefighters, newly defined in the 2024 omnibus pensions bill in Minn. Stat. 2022, section 424A.02, subdivision 9, are eligible for these benefits despite facing the same risks as other firefighters. This provision would clarify their eligibility for these benefits.

We appreciate your consideration to support the firefighters who serve our communities. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "BJ Jungmann".

Chief BJ Jungmann  
Legislative Chair, MNFAC  
[legislative@msfca.org](mailto:legislative@msfca.org)



**To:** Chairs and Members of the Legislative Conference Committees  
Minnesota Legislature

**Re:** Support for Advocate Confidentiality and Custodian Notice Provisions in Public Safety Omnibus bill

Dear Chairs and Members of the Conference Committees:

Violence Free Minnesota writes in strong support of two critical policy provisions: clarifying advocate confidentiality and changing the definition of “custodian” for the purposes of Order for Protection (OFP) cases. Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition to end relationship abuse, consists of over 90 member programs serving survivors of domestic and sexual violence in all 87 Minnesota counties.

Both measures reinforce core principles of survivor safety, privacy, and autonomy—values that must remain central to Minnesota’s response to domestic violence.

**Confidentiality for Domestic Violence Advocates (HF 1083/SF 1055)**

When survivors turn to community-based advocates, they are often doing so after experiencing immense harm, trauma, and fear. The strength it takes to seek help and safety should not be met with the fear that their disclosures could be used against them in a legal proceeding or made public in court. Yet without explicit statutory protections, that risk persists.

This proposal, included in both the House and Senate omnibus packages, affirms that communications between survivors and community-based domestic violence advocates are privileged—just like those with sexual assault counselors. It is a commonsense clarification that ensures survivors can safely access support without compromising their safety or legal standing.

**Custodian Definition Change (HF 2781/SF 2979)**

This provision, included in the House omnibus package, makes a technical change to the definition of custodian for the purpose of Orders for Protection. Under a law passed in the 2024 legislative session, OFP applicants now need to notify the custodians of any other minor children when applying for an OFP and when modifying or dropping an OFP. The definition of “custodian” in current law is overbroad and applies to anyone who has a legal obligation to the child, which

could include parties like daycare centers, schools, or sports coaches. This simple change would limit the definition of custodian to those with court ordered or statutory physical or legal custody, or those with custody by the consent of a custodial parent. This change conforms more to the common language and family court usages of the word “custodian” and would make the law much clearer for survivors and other custodians. These proposals are survivor-informed, narrowly tailored, and rooted in the lived experiences of advocates and survivors of relationship abuse across our state. We urge the conference committees to ensure that both provisions remain in the final legislative package.

Thank you for your continued commitment to the safety and dignity of survivors across Minnesota.

**Guadalupe Lopez**  
Executive Director  
Violence Free Minnesota

May 7, 2025

Dear Members of the Public Safety Conference Committee,

As the legislature works to reconcile final public safety and judiciary provisions, the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (MACDL) urges you to adopt two critical items that directly impact the integrity, efficiency, and fairness of Minnesota's legal system.

**1. Fully Fund Justice Partner Access – House Article 1, Sec. 2(d) and Sec. 19**

A \$4 million investment in Justice Partner Access will provide necessary funding to provide better and more equitable access to case information. It is a critical step in allowing attorneys information to better represent their clients.

**2. Clarify Statute Post-State v. Johnston – Senate Article 3, Sec. 3**

The decision in *State v. Johnston* introduced confusion that jeopardizes the consistent application of criminal law across Minnesota. The Senate language offers a clear, targeted solution that aligns with original legislative intent and protects Constitutional due process rights.

Thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely, on behalf of MACDL,

Hannah Martin  
Legislative Chair  
MACDL



Minnesota Competency Attainment Board  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Suite G-08  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 8, 2025

Members of the Conference Committee on H.F. 2432,

On behalf of the Minnesota Competency Attainment Board (MNCAB), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus Bill, H.F. 2432.

We appreciate the thoughtful support of MNCAB from each of the committee chairs. In this challenging budget, we know that you share our commitment to MNCAB's role in gaining competency and stability for defendants in our criminal justice system.

As the session moves to a close, we encourage moving MNCAB's budget as close to the Governor's recommendation as possible. The Governor's March budget [recommendation](#) of \$11,160 in FY 26 and \$11,426 in FY 27 respectively, best puts our agency in the position of fully meeting our agency costs and meeting the needs of the courts and defendants statewide by the end of the biennium.

Alternatively, between the House and the Senate positions, the Senate position allows us to meet our current staff obligations, including unavoidable health insurance increases, and some modest staffing increases. Neither the House nor the Senate position provide for any salary increase for MNCAB staff.

We note that if our budget allocation is significantly below the Governor's recommendation, we will need a statutory change to allow our agency to provide forensic navigators to the extent resources allow. Proposed language to address this is provided in the policy section of this letter.

#### **Fiscal Reduction in FY 2024 and FY 2025**

Both the House and Senate positions contain an appropriation reduction in the current biennium. As you know, under Minnesota law, unused appropriations return to the original fund at the end of the biennium. As a new agency, we will have unused appropriations at the end of the biennium. The House position reduces our current biennial appropriation by \$11 million, and the Senate reduces our current biennial appropriation by \$9 million.

In looking at both our remaining appropriation and our fiscal obligations before June 30, 2025, it is important that the maximum reduction taken is closer to the Senate appropriation reduction of \$9 million. Further reductions directly impact our ability to meet our obligations, which include the additional staff hired since the committee deadlines, and our one-time costs related to our office move in late June 2025. We currently rent space in the Minnesota Judicial Center, but our lease ends on June 30.

It is a challenge to adequately anticipate funding needs for a new program and ensure that employees are fairly and adequately compensated so that we can retain our dedicated employees as we continue to expand. We also recognize the state's budget situation.

### Policy Language – House Article 3

MNCAB's policy bill is contained within the House position, and we are grateful to Chair Liebling for authoring our bill this session. While this is primarily a budget year, we do hope that our non-controversial, no-cost policy language can be incorporated into the final Conference Committee Report.

If MNCAB's funding is significantly below the Governor's recommendation, we respectfully request that the Conference Committee adopt language to align MNCAB's statutory obligation to provide services with our legislative appropriation. Our suggested language is an amendment to Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 611.55, subd. 2:

611.55 Forensic Navigator Services.

Subd. 2 Availability of forensic navigator services. *Within available resources, the board must provide or contract for enough forensic navigator services to meet the needs of adult defendants in each judicial district who are found incompetent to proceed.*

Without additional funding to hire a sufficient number of forensic navigators to meet the needs statewide, it is essential to align our statutory obligation with our fiscal position. We additionally ask that the legislature strike the phrase "or contract for." Given what we have learned in the last year regarding the skill set and training necessary for forensic navigator work, we do not see a fiscal or policy benefit to investing the necessary skill, training, and administrative oversight to contract employees.

### Summary

We thank the Conference Committee Chairs and Members for their thoughtful and important work this session. Our goal is to provide MNCAB services in the next biennium to fully meet the needs of the courts and defendants statewide. If that is not possible through a final agreement, we ask the legislature to move our appropriation as close to full funding as possible with the suggested amended language that forensic navigator services are provided to the extent resources are available.

We are happy to provide further information or answer questions. Thank you for your commitment to justice, and for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Ryan Flynn  
Board Chair



Kim Larson  
Program Administrator

**Minnesotans for Open Government (MNOG):  
Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus side-by-sides  
Written Testimony  
Prepared by Matt Ehling, MNOG Board Member  
May 6, 2025**

Dear conferees,

Minnesotans for Open Government (MNOG) writes to share its positions on the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus side-by-sides:

**SENATE LANGUAGE**

**Strike lines** 163.1-163.26 (Converting public contact information into private data)

These lines contain provisions that would convert the vast majority of citizen contact information held by government entities from “public” to “private” data, effectively erasing data that the press uses to contact witnesses to a whole host of government-related activities; and that citizens across the political spectrum use to contact each other to organize and advocate. The full implications of this expansive change have had very little committee discussion (and no discussion at all in the House) and should be set aside for the Data Practices Commission to review before returning as legislation.

**Strike lines** 164.10-164.11 (Take out Tennessen warning elimination)

MNOG is neutral on the private data classification created by lines 168.28-164.11, but urges that lines 164.10-164.11 be struck out. These lines eliminate the “Tennessen Warning” that would normally be given to library patrons submitting the “private” data created by this new section. Under Minnesota law, individuals who submit private data (here, both minors and their parents/guardians) need to be notified about how that data will be used by the government. Lines 164.10-164.11 remove this standard requirement; and as such, they should be eliminated so as to leave the standard “Tennessen Warning” requirement in place.

**Adopt lines** 169.3-169.5 (Making certain body camera data “public”)

These lines add a new provision to the body camera data section that makes body camera data on elected officials who have been charged with felonies “public” data 14 days after a criminal complaint has been filed.

**Strike lines** 175.2-175.3 — (AG enforcement of autism data sharing prohibition)

MNOG is neutral on the underlying data sharing provision relating to autism data. However, we would urge that lines 175.2-175.3 be struck out. These lines add Attorney General enforcement powers for violations of the data sharing provision. Since any data sharing violations would

already be subject to the civil remedies and penalties of 13.08, 13.085, and 13.09, no additional enforcement authority is needed. Also, MNOG is reticent to see any further authorities given to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) until the data provisions governing that office (see § 13.65) are returned to the state they were in before the *Energy Policy Advocates v. Ellison* decision (Minn. 2022), which greatly reduced public access to the records of the Attorney General (and, thus, reduced public oversight of the AGO).

## **HOUSE LANGUAGE**

**Adopt lines 82.24-84.17** (Codifying commissioner's guidance on copies and inspection)

MNOG was part of a broad stakeholder group convened by Rep. Green that led to the language in lines 84.12-84.17, which codified guidance from the Commission of Administration regarding data practices copy fees and inspection procedures. This language was heard in at least two House and Senate committees, and has buy-in from MNOG as well as governmental stakeholders.

**Adopt lines 87.21-87.22 and line 88.6-88.16** (Updates to the definition of "public official")

MNOG supports all of the updates to the definition of "public official" that have been considered on both the House and Senate side, and which are found within lines 87.21-87.22 and 88.6-88.16.



2550 University Ave W, Suite 350-S  
St. Paul, MN 55114

May 9, 2025

Members of the Conference Committee on H.F. 2432,

On behalf of the Cannabis Expungement Board (CEB), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus Bill, H.F. 2432.

We appreciate the support for the work of the CEB from the committee chairs and members, despite the challenges you are facing with this budget.

#### **Cancellation of Funds.**

Both the House and Senate positions assume some level of cancellation of unspent funds in the CEB budget. While we do not have a position on cancellations generally, we do want to ensure that if included they are at a level that does not impact the Board's ability to meet operating expenses and start-up costs.

Unspent funds in the state's accounting system are not the same as available funds. Unspent funds could be contractually obligated but just not yet disbursed to pay an invoice.

The CEB is estimating it will need \$2.2 million to meet current fiscal year obligations (invoices that are yet to be submitted or are waiting payment). This estimate includes salary obligations for existing and newly hired staff, remaining lease payments, contractual obligations for our case management system. We also are estimating that we will need an additional \$1.3 million to meet anticipated technology related start-up expenses. This will include case management system and data management system strategies that we have not yet been able to deploy.

Accommodating both of these needs would leave \$6.7 million available for cancellation in the committee's spreadsheet.

#### **Policy Language – Senate Article 6**

Our policy bill seeks to align our statute with what we believe was the original legislative intent to provide relief for all past felony cannabis offenses that otherwise meet eligibility and review requirements. We appreciate the support for this in both chambers. The Senate has included SF 204 in its conference committee language. HF 1094, although not included here, was passed out of the Public Safety Committee with an amendment.

The House amendment deleted the language at 112.14-112.16. This language addresses the judicial branch only expunging cases if every count in the case qualifies. It would allow the entire case to be expunged if all other charges were dismissed or would otherwise be eligible for expungement under the automatic cannabis expungement statute. We have offered language to address concerns in the House by allowing the entire case to be expunged if all other charges were otherwise eligible *cannabis* dismissals, rather than any type of dismissal, or would otherwise be eligible for expungement under the automatic cannabis expungement statute. We respectfully request that the Conference Committee adopt the Senate language, with this amendment to address the concerns of some House members.

Thank you again for your support this session and for the challenging work you have ahead of you in the coming days. We are excited about the work ahead for the Cannabis Expungement Board.

We are happy to provide further information or answer questions. Thank you for your commitment to justice and for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James R. Rowader Jr." in a cursive script.

Jim Rowader  
Executive Director

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

**Todd M. Fellman**  
District Court Judge

Hennepin County Juvenile Justice  
Center  
590 Park Avenue  
Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55415



**State of Minnesota**  
Judicial District

Serving the County of:  
Hennepin

Telephone: 612-348-6000  
Law Clerk: 612-322-6481

Chairpersons and members of the Judiciary/Public Safety Conference Committee:

The Guardian ad Litem (GAL) program staff and volunteers serve an incredibly vital role in the Minnesota child protection system—independently representing the best interests of children in court proceedings, ensuring their voices are heard, and helping guide the court process towards safety, stability, and permanency. In fact, the role of the GAL is so important to the system that Minn. Stat. § 260C.163 requires that the court to appoint a GAL in every CHIPS case to protect the interests of the children.

However, GAL program is currently facing several issues affecting their statutory mandate:

The GAL program is experiencing alarmingly high turnover rates resulting in children without assigned GAL's. Trained and experienced staff are leaving for more competitive and less emotionally taxing jobs. Additionally, the program is struggling to recruit qualified replacements and volunteers (who need training, technology support, and supervision).

The above-mentioned turnover and unassigned cases are unfortunately concentrated in the largest district in the state, Hennepin County, where currently 135 cases are unassigned with 246 individual children without a statutorily mandated GAL. The delay in assigning a GAL is a delay in advocating for that child's safety, permanency, and wellbeing. The delay is not sustainable nor acceptable for the most vulnerable children in Minnesota.

Every day that a child goes without an assigned GAL is a day they lack a trusted, independent, trained individual advocating for their best interests in court. It is a day longer they may spend in uncertainty or an unsafe environment, which not only undermines the integrity of our child protection system but places additional burdens on the courts, social services, families, and communities.

The decisions you make now will have lasting impacts on the lives of Minnesota's most vulnerable children. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Judge Todd M. Fellman  
Hennepin County District Court  
Todd.Fellman@courts.state.mn.us  
Cell: 763-350-7300

Minnesota Competency Attainment Board  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Suite G-08  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 8, 2025

Members of the Conference Committee on H.F. 2432,

On behalf of the Minnesota Competency Attainment Board (MNCAB), thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus Bill, H.F. 2432.

We appreciate the thoughtful support of MNCAB from each of the committee chairs. In this challenging budget, we know that you share our commitment to MNCAB's role in gaining competency and stability for defendants in our criminal justice system.

As the session moves to a close, we encourage moving MNCAB's budget as close to the Governor's recommendation as possible. The Governor's March budget [recommendation](#) of \$11,160 in FY 26 and \$11,426 in FY 27 respectively, best puts our agency in the position of fully meeting our agency costs and meeting the needs of the courts and defendants statewide by the end of the biennium.

Alternatively, between the House and the Senate positions, the Senate position allows us to meet our current staff obligations, including unavoidable health insurance increases, and some modest staffing increases. Neither the House nor the Senate position provide for any salary increase for MNCAB staff.

We note that if our budget allocation is significantly below the Governor's recommendation, we will need a statutory change to allow our agency to provide forensic navigators to the extent resources allow. Proposed language to address this is provided in the policy section of this letter.

#### **Fiscal Reduction in FY 2024 and FY 2025**

Both the House and Senate positions contain an appropriation reduction in the current biennium. As you know, under Minnesota law, unused appropriations return to the original fund at the end of the biennium. As a new agency, we will have unused appropriations at the end of the biennium. The House position reduces our current biennial appropriation by \$11 million, and the Senate reduces our current biennial appropriation by \$9 million.

In looking at both our remaining appropriation and our fiscal obligations before June 30, 2025, it is important that the maximum reduction taken is closer to the Senate appropriation reduction of \$9 million. Further reductions directly impact our ability to meet our obligations, which include the additional staff hired since the committee deadlines, and our one-time costs related to our office move in late June 2025. We currently rent space in the Minnesota Judicial Center, but our lease ends on June 30.

It is a challenge to adequately anticipate funding needs for a new program and ensure that employees are fairly and adequately compensated so that we can retain our dedicated employees as we continue to expand. We also recognize the state's budget situation.



### Policy Language – House Article 3

MNCAB's policy bill is contained within the House position, and we are grateful to Chair Liebling for authoring our bill this session. While this is primarily a budget year, we do hope that our non-controversial, no-cost policy language can be incorporated into the final Conference Committee Report.

If MNCAB's funding is significantly below the Governor's recommendation, we respectfully request that the Conference Committee adopt language to align MNCAB's statutory obligation to provide services with our legislative appropriation. Our suggested language is an amendment to Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 611.55, subd. 2:

611.55 Forensic Navigator Services.

Subd. 2 Availability of forensic navigator services. *Within available resources, the board must provide or contract for enough forensic navigator services to meet the needs of adult defendants in each judicial district who are found incompetent to proceed.*

Without additional funding to hire a sufficient number of forensic navigators to meet the needs statewide, it is essential to align our statutory obligation with our fiscal position. We additionally ask that the legislature strike the phrase "or contract for." Given what we have learned in the last year regarding the skill set and training necessary for forensic navigator work, we do not see a fiscal or policy benefit to investing the necessary skill, training, and administrative oversight to contract employees.

### Summary

We thank the Conference Committee Chairs and Members for their thoughtful and important work this session. Our goal is to provide MNCAB services in the next biennium to fully meet the needs of the courts and defendants statewide. If that is not possible through a final agreement, we ask the legislature to move our appropriation as close to full funding as possible with the suggested amended language that forensic navigator services are provided to the extent resources are available.

We are happy to provide further information or answer questions. Thank you for your commitment to justice, and for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Ryan Flynn  
Board Chair



Kim Larson  
Program Administrator