

Ramsey County Sheriff's Office

Bob Fletcher, Sheriff

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www.RamseyCountySheriff.us

March 3, 2025

The Honorable Andrew Myers State Representative, District 45A Assistant Leader Centennial Office Building, 2nd Floor Saint Paul, MN 55155

Reference: Letter of Support for House File (HF) 135

A Bill to Protect Correctional Officers, Detention Deputies, and Deputy Sheriffs

Representative Myers:

I am writing to express my support for House File 135, a piece of legislation that seeks to protect Sheriff's Office employees, specifically Correctional Officers, Detention Deputies, and Deputy Sheriffs, who are assaulted in the line of duty in a county jail. This legislation also extends the same protections already provided to Correctional Officers and employees at state correctional facilities.

The Ramsey County Sheriff's Office employs over 160 Correctional Officers who serve in the Adult Detention Center, commonly referred to as the county jail. Correctional Officers are skilled professionals who serve 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to safely, securely, and humanely house individuals within the county, often in the face of violence and danger. While continuing to carry the significant professional and personal burden of this job, Correctional Officers remain committed to their duty to keep the individuals, staff, and community safe, no matter the threat. Unfortunately, in the performance of their duties, Correctional Officers have been assaulted. Enacting consecutive sentences in certain cases provides additional accountability and the same protections provided at state correctional facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to serving the people of Minnesota, and I look forward to your continued leadership on issues that matter to us all.

Sincerely,

Bob Fletcher

Ramsey County Sheriff

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Copy: Representative Jeff Witte, District 57B

