



March 25, 2021

**RE: HF 1103 (deadly force and “portable recording systems”)**

Dear Members of the House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on HF 1103. We respectfully ask that you oppose this bill. As you consider HF 1103, we ask you balance the three foundational values of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act:

- Public’s right to know what its government is doing
- Right of privacy of individuals
- Government’s need to function responsibly and efficiently

As with other important data practices issues, HF 1103 highlights the tension among these values. While this bill aims to provide data to those who are “next of kin” within 48 hours, doing so would likely jeopardize any investigation, potential prosecution, or possible litigation afterwards. It’s important to consider both the right to know by the public (or here “next of kin”) and allowing government’s need to investigate deadly force encounters most effectively. The existing law is a carefully structured balance that takes into account the wide range of needs that exists for the data in these recordings.

We will continue to work with the author on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Irene Kao'.

Irene Kao  
Intergovernmental Relations Counsel  
League of Minnesota Cities