



**March 9, 2023**

TO: Chair Kelly Moller  
Member of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

FROM: Butch Inks, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **Support for HF 1234 (Her) - Peace officer disability provisions modified, report required, and money appropriated**

Chair Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the City of Saint Paul Fire Department, I am writing to express my support for HF 1234, a bill related to public safety posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) duty disabilities. HF 1234 would provide funding and treatment opportunities for our dedicated firefighters and first responders so that they can remain healthy, recover from mental health related duress, and strive towards safely returning to work.

Our first responders are called into life and death situations every day. Apart from the clear physical dangers associated with our line of work, the risk for mental health related injuries remains high. In recent years, the Saint Paul Fire Department has seen an increase in mental health related injury claims. We have seen a multitude of studies that show PTSD is treatable, if treatment is administered early, appropriately, and consistently.

HF 1234 not only addresses the treatment of these injuries but provides necessary funding to help prevent these injuries from occurring – ultimately allowing our first responders to securely remain on the job, protecting our community from harm.

The City of Saint Paul Fire Department remains committed to ensuring the safety and vitality of our first responders. Thank you for your consideration of HF 1234.

Sincerely,

Butch Inks, Fire Chief