



Wednesday, March 23, 2022

Re: Letter of Support for Senate File 4170/HF 4448

To whom it may concern:

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association (MSFCA) is the professional association representing Fire Chiefs and Fire Officers from across the state and committed to representing the interests of fire departments, chiefs, command staff, officers and firefighters.

We are in full support of Senate File 4170. The bill would provide important grant opportunities to non-profit organizations to make significant fire safety improvements to their high-rise apartment buildings by funding fire sprinkler installation. These improvements would greatly improve the safety of residents and the firefighters responding to fire emergencies in these buildings. Fire sprinklers contain fires and keep them small, limiting the heat, smoke, and visibility issues for firefighters. Sprinkler-controlled fires limit the myriad of life-threatening conditions firefighters face, including thermal insult, cardiovascular events, and cancer – all of which can impact a firefighter immediately and over their career, adversely impacting their professional and personal life.

Senate File 4170 invests a small amount of the state budget surplus but will yield huge benefits to the members of my Association, improve the safety of the residents of these buildings, improve the condition of the impacted buildings, and encourage further safety enhancements in low-income housing across the state.

The Minnesota State Fire Chiefs urge you to support and pass Senate File 4170.

Sincerely,

T. John Cunningham
President

Cc: MSFCA Legislative Committee
Minnesota Fire Association Coalition (MnFAC)

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