



March 19, 2024

Public Safety and Finance Committee Chair Kelly Moller
MN House of Representatives
509 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller:

We are collectively writing from the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA), Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), and Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA).

Our organizations support House File 3966 (Wolgamott) Public safety telecommunicator training and continuing education requirements established, Public Safety Telecommunicator Training and Standards Board established, rulemaking authorized, report required, and money appropriated.

Dispatchers are vital parts of the public safety responder team. This bill creates appropriate training, standards, and certifications for their profession.

These professionals provide critical lifesaving work every day and should be recognized and classified as “First Responders” versus clerical employees. Dispatchers are like oil in an engine; without it, the engine wouldn’t be able to function properly. Dispatchers are many times the first of the First Responders to an incident – taking the call, creating Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) records, and sending critical resources to the scene. This requires listening skills, the ability to multi-task, data entry, provide life saving measures in an emergency to the caller, launch and coordinate resources to the scene, etc.. In addition, it requires a baseline knowledge of each first responding department – police, fire, and emergency medical services.

We urge your support for this important bill which supports all of our Minnesota’s dispatchers.

Sincerely,

Executive Director Brian Peters
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

Executive Director Jim Mortenson
Law Enforcement Labor Services

President Mike LeDoux
Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association