MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Office of the Commissioner

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Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Driver and Vehicle Services

Emergency Communication Networks

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Minnesota State Patrol

Office of Communications

Office of Justice Programs

Office of Pipeline Safety

Office of Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

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

The Department of Public Safety (DPS) serves all communities to build a safer Minnesota. I am writing to express support for the DPS policy bills currently included in HF3990 (Novotny) and request that DPS policy bills not currently included be added.

I appreciate the inclusion of HF3826 (Witte), a DPS Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) policy bill related to the work of the BCA Financial Crimes and Fraud Section. The changes included will provide additional tools to BCA in its fight against all types of fraud in Minnesota. These changes recognize the complex nature of these types of crimes and help ensure fraudsters are held accountable.

Thank you for also including the BCA technical corrections bill, HF3827 (Duran). This bill clarifies statutory language ensuring reimbursements for local law enforcement for unanticipated, long-term investigations. It will allow BCA to effectively correct record errors related to expungements. And this bill ensures that BCA receives necessary information on Orders for Protection from the judicial branch to assist in effective enforcement of these orders.

Thank you for your commitment to crime victim rights by including the DPS Office of Justice Programs (OJP) division bill, HF3825 (Repinski). These changes will further enhance victim notifications of plea hearings and sentencing hearings, protect victim identities in certain prosecutor petition documents, and require that victims be notified if an offense is eligible for automatic expungement.

I am hopeful you will also include the DPS OJP bill HF3870 (Curran) that protects research data on individuals at OJP. It would also clarify that case support data collected from families and victims through the work of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office and Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office are classified as private data.

I would also like to see the BCA policy bill HF3871 (Moller) included. The changes in this bill are designed to address critical gaps in Minnesota law that inhibit law enforcement's ability to prevent child sexual abuse and the exploitation of children. Reports related to child sexual abuse material have continued to increase and this bill provides important tools to help address this serious issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. I look forward to continuing to work with chairs, committee members and staff on this policy package. Thank you for your support of public safety.

Sincerely,

Bob Jacobson, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety