



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

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Chair Moller and Chair Novotny
Minnesota House Public Safety Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
St. Paul, Minnesota

Re: HF 3413 - Minnesota Sheriffs' Association Opposition to Proposed Language

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), which represents all 87 elected sheriffs of this state, I write to express our opposition to specific language contained in HF 3413. Testimony will also be provided separately regarding immigration-related agreements as they pertain to county jails and the impact to numerous counties across the state. This letter is focused on the broader implications of the phrase found on line 1.14: **“or any other federal law.”**

As drafted, this language extends far beyond immigration policy and would have the unintended consequence of restricting or effectively prohibiting Minnesota sheriffs and their deputies from participating in long-standing, multi-jurisdictional federal task forces and cooperative investigations. These partnerships are critical components of public safety operations across our state.

Minnesota sheriffs currently work in collaboration with federal partners including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, United States Coast Guard, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Marshals Service, United States Postal Inspection Service, Joint Terrorism Task Forces, Violent Crime Enforcement Teams, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) initiatives, and Northern Border Stonegarden operations with the United States Border Patrol. These efforts target violent fugitives, human trafficking, child exploitation, major narcotics trafficking organizations, terrorism-related threats, mail theft, financial fraud, and other complex criminal activity that crosses jurisdictional boundaries.

The inclusion of the phrase “or any other federal law” creates significant legal ambiguity. Participation in these task forces could be interpreted as enforcing federal law, thereby exposing sheriffs' offices and their personnel to potential legal risk. The practical effect would be a withdrawal from these partnerships, not because they are ineffective, but because the risk of noncompliance with state statute would be too great.

Minnesota would lose access to critical federal resources, intelligence sharing, investigative support, and funding streams that directly enhance our ability to protect the communities we serve.

It is important to note that these task forces operate under clearly defined memoranda of understanding and focused investigative scopes. Deputies assigned to them are working on violent crime, drug trafficking, terrorism, and exploitation cases, not civil immigration enforcement. Removing or limiting our participation would weaken coordinated efforts against organized and violent criminal networks and slow the apprehension of dangerous offenders. The bill would also have a significant financial impact on many counties due to contracts for boat and water safety and contract housing. The language would also run in direct opposition to the findings and recommendations of the 9-11 Commission on Terrorist Attacks that explained the value of communication and cooperation between local, state and federal partners to pursue safer communities and safeguard our families from various threats and attacks.

Sheriffs are accountable to the citizens of their counties for public safety outcomes. Restricting access to these collaborative tools does not improve safety; it diminishes our collective capacity to respond to complex and cross-jurisdictional crime.

For the reasons stated, and others that will be shared during testimony, The Minnesota Sheriffs' Association opposes the bill.

Respectfully,



James Stuart

Executive Director/ CEO