



March 6, 2023

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

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the Public Safety Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, supports several key provisions in HF 25 (Frazier) and HF 855 (Frazier), which are being heard in the Public Safety Committee on Tuesday.

Metro Cities supports flexible state funding for public safety innovation at the local level. Metro Cities supports Sec. 3 and Sec. 4 in HF 25, which would provide grants to cities and organizations working collaboratively with local governments for community crime and violence prevention programs including but not limited to juvenile diversion programs. Metro Cities also supports funding in Sec. 5 and Sec. 6 in HF 25 that would provide grants to local governments to improve their ability to respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Metro Cities supports funding in these sections for grants to local law enforcement agencies to purchase equipment used to investigate crimes or process evidence.

Metro Cities supports the local community innovation grants, emergency community safety grants, and local co-responder grants included in Article 1 of HF 855. These grant programs recognize that the provision of public safety looks different in every community. This funding will support new and ongoing efforts in metropolitan area communities to help ensure the safety of residents across the region and state.

Local agencies of all sizes in the metropolitan region are experiencing retention and recruitment challenges. The task force on alternative officer licensure as well as some of the eligible uses for local community policing and local investigation grants found in Article 2 of HF 855 will help local agencies increase their ability to provide public safety services effectively and efficiently on behalf of the communities they serve.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Lund". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities