



Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100

Phone: 651.201.7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555

www.dps.mn.gov

April 13, 2026

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House File 1082 (HF 1082). The Department of Public Safety (DPS) works to serve all communities to build a safer Minnesota. I recognize that we are facing a challenging budget outlook in Minnesota, and I am appreciative of your work to support public safety with this supplemental budget bill.

I am concerned that HF1082 does not include the investments recommended by the Governor. The Governor's recommended funding for the School Safety Center within the DPS Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) Division would provide funding for Minnesota schools to implement the safety and security measures that are right for each individual school. It would also provide needed investments in the School Safety Center to provide additional support and resources to schools regarding their safety needs. HF1082 also excludes the Governor's recommendations to address gun violence including the funding for the public awareness campaign for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO).

I would also like to see this committee consider inclusion of the Governor's proposal adding political assassination to the first degree murder statute and investments in the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Behavior Threat Assessment and Management (BTAM) Team and the Financial Crimes and Fraud Section (FCFS).

In just the first quarter of 2026, the BCA has received nearly the same number of tips investigated by the BTAM Team as they investigated in all of 2025. Targeted violence against schools, faith-based institutions, and public officials is on the rise. The BTAM Team takes a proactive and holistic approach to identify and investigate the persons of concern that threaten the safety and security of Minnesotans and interrupt that pathway to violence. Additional resources for this team are seriously needed and I hope you will add them to this spending bill.

The FCFS continues to investigate state program fraud, insurance fraud, and other financial crimes. It is critical to provide the necessary resources to this team to ensure that fraudsters are held accountable. I would like to see this committee include the Governor's recommended investment in this important public safety team. The Governor has also proposed the addition of a specific crime for theft of public funds with increased

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

penalties which would provide an additional tool to respond to individuals committing fraud against state programs.

I appreciate that this bill includes increased criminal penalties for impersonating a peace officer and provides requirements to ensure law enforcement vehicles that are sold or transferred and would no longer contain the equipment that makes them appear to be law enforcement vehicles. These changes will enhance public trust and safety by ensuring that the public can accurately identify peace officers. Crime victim services are vital public safety services, and I appreciate this committee's continued commitment to this important work.

We look forward to continuing to work with chairs, committee members, and staff to ensure this bill can be effectively administered and accomplishes the committee's goals. Thank you for your support of public safety. Working together to uplift the hardworking professionals who have chosen careers in public safety is critical.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Jacobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" being more prominent.

Bob Jacobson

Commissioner of Public Safety