



Chair Paul Novotny
Chair Kelly Moller
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
Saint Paul, Minnesota

April 14th, 2026

Re: Support for HF4810 and HF4597 – Public Safety Communications Infrastructure

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

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), we write to express strong support for HF4810, the Minnesota Public Safety Radio Communications Funding and Interoperability Act, and HF4597, which provides funding for a unified 911 center awareness platform. These proposals respond to significant and well-documented challenges in Minnesota’s public safety communications systems, and we appreciate the Committee’s leadership in advancing these efforts. We offer the following perspectives for your consideration.

Support for HF4810

AMC supports the framework and long-term approach outlined in HF4810. The Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) system remains a foundational component of Minnesota’s public safety infrastructure, enabling coordinated emergency response across jurisdictions. While the system has served the state effectively for more than two decades, it is now facing increasing strain due to aging infrastructure, inconsistent funding streams, and the absence of a sustainable long-term investment strategy.

The current financing structure relies on a mix of state agency support, 911 fee revenues, and significant local government contributions. Counties across Minnesota play a central role in maintaining and operating portions of the system, often absorbing costs that extend beyond their direct usage or local benefit. This fragmented approach creates inequities and uncertainty, particularly as the need for system upgrades and eventual replacement becomes more urgent.

HF4810 provides a meaningful path forward by establishing a dedicated funding mechanism and rebalancing responsibility for a system that functions as a statewide asset. Moving away from reliance on local mandates for core infrastructure investment is an important step toward a more equitable and sustainable model. AMC also supports the bill’s focus on strengthening interoperability, promoting regional coordination, and ensuring that local partners have access to the technical support necessary to maintain effective communications systems.

Support for HF4597

AMC also supports HF4597 and the proposed investment to advance a unified 911 center awareness platform. Timely and accurate communication between Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) is critical to effective emergency response. Under current conditions, transferring calls or information between jurisdictions can introduce delays that impact outcomes in time-sensitive situations.

A shared platform that allows dispatchers to seamlessly transfer information between centers represents a significant improvement in both efficiency and response coordination. By reducing reliance on manual handoffs and enabling direct data sharing, this investment enhances the ability of first responders to act quickly and with complete information.

Counties recognize that work toward this capability has been underway for several years, including planning efforts and prior procurement attempts that were ultimately constrained by available funding. HF4597 represents an opportunity to advance this long-standing priority and deliver tangible improvements to Minnesota's emergency response system.

Looking Ahead

AMC views these proposals as important components of a broader effort to modernize Minnesota's public safety communications systems. The investments and policy changes reflected in HF4810 and HF4597 address immediate operational challenges while also creating a foundation for more coordinated and efficient service delivery in the future.

Counties remain committed to working with state partners, regional entities, and local agencies to reduce duplication, better align infrastructure investments, and explore opportunities for increased system integration. As these efforts move forward, it will be important to continue evaluating how current decisions support long-term goals, including greater interoperability, shared services, and cost-effective system management.

AMC appreciates the Committee's attention to these critical issues and stands ready to support ongoing discussions to strengthen Minnesota's public safety communications infrastructure.

Thank you for your consideration.

Emilio Lamba

Emilio Lamba
Public Safety Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties