

March 10, 2025

Chair Paul Novotny  
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Capitol 120

**Re: Concern about Proposal to Eliminate the Public Safety Advisory Council (HF1257)**

Chair Novotny,

The Minnesota Indian Affairs Council, Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans, and Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage are state agencies created by the Minnesota Legislature to advise elected officials about our constituent communities and their needs.

Our councils write to express our concerns about HF1257, the proposal to eliminate the Public Safety Advisory Council of the Minnesota Board of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST Board). Members of the Public Safety Advisory Council include representatives from community, law enforcement, legislative, and mental health organizations. The Advisory Council provides Minnesota a critical bottom-up instrument for institutionalizing cross-cultural and cross-sectoral dialogue, review, and collaboration within the work of the POST Board. We fear that repeal of Minnesota Statutes 2024 Section 626.8435 would remove existing opportunities for developing nuanced, inclusive perspectives through cross-cultural and cross-sectoral collaboration. Inevitably, this loss would weaken Minnesota's capacity to sustain and expand public trust in its public safety systems.

The Public Safety Advisory Council's institutional purpose and duties are not addressed elsewhere in Minnesota Statutes. The Advisory Council is needed because the other statutes governing the POST Board do not provide for adequate cross-cultural and cross-sectoral interaction. Our communities know the value of the Advisory Council's role. Among other things, the Advisory Council helped the POST Board build community trust when protests erupted after the killing of Duante Wright and during the trial of officer Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd.

Our councils urge you to reconsider your support for repealing the Public Safety Advisory Council. We request to meet with you to discuss alternative strategies for addressing your concerns about the Public Safety Advisory Council that don't entail eliminating it and its critical role at the POST Board. Thank you for considering our letter and for your leadership on public safety issues in Minnesota.

Respectfully,

Linda Sloan | Executive Director | Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage

Rosa Tock | Executive Director | Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs

Shannon Geshick | Executive Director | Minnesota Indian Affairs Council

Sia Her | Executive Director | Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans