



March 27, 2023

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2890 (Moller), as amended by the DE 1 Amendment.

Metro Cities supports flexible state funding for public safety innovation at the local level. Metro Cities supports Article 1, Section 13 of the DE 1 amendment, which appropriates \$100 million for the Community Crime and Violence Prevention Account. Metro Cities supports the use of this account to award 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 supports several other key funding provisions found in Article 1 of the DE Amendment:

- \$1 million each year for grants to local governments for to purchase or upgrade equipment that can be used as part of the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication System and over \$20 million to MnDOT for the cost of operating the statewide radio system backbone.
- \$7.5 million each year for youth intervention programs under Minnesota Statutes, Section 299A.73.
- \$3 million each year for grants to law enforcement agencies and local governments to build or maintain mental health co-responder models.
- Investments in first responder mental health found in Article 1, Sections 3, 21, and 22.
- \$7 million in FY 2024 support Public Safety Answering Points' transition to Next Generation 911.
- \$2.9 million each year for reimbursements to local governments for peace officer training costs found in Article 1, Section 4.

Metro Cities supports Article 7, Section 7, which requires that the Department of Public Safety's annual uniform crime report include data on carjacking, as its own distinct category.

Local agencies of all sizes in the metropolitan region are experiencing retention and recruitment challenges. **Metro Cities supports the reimbursements for officer training, retention bonuses, and student loan costs** found in Article 8, Section 16 of the DE amendment.

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