



# Lakes Area Police Department

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March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of support, For Jake's Sake Foundation, a nonprofit committed to increasing awareness of opioid abuse with efforts to put an end to opioid related addiction and death through partnering with communities and other dedicated organizations. As a school resource officer with 10 years of experience working with youth K-12 and 5 years as a board member of the Minnesota Juvenile Officers Association I have seen firsthand the impact that opioid addiction and abuse has on a community.

The opioid epidemic has local and national impacts. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) opiate deaths have increased by 500% recently. The United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) states that more Americans die annually from drug overdoses than deaths from motor vehicle crashes and firearms combined. Prevention is key, and we are simply not doing enough. Locally, in our community we provide instruction and curriculum from Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) but only to elementary aged students. There is a major need to continue the prevention message consistently through graduation. We know that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

For Jake's Sake Foundation is committed to prevention. They are introducing a bill which would require substance misuse prevention curriculum in Minnesota schools and appropriations to develop and implement the coursework. There is no better time than now to support the efforts of prevention. Please feel free to reach me with any questions.

Respectfully,

Cory Spencer

School Resource Officer  
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