



HF 2742 Written Testimony

April 7, 2026

Chairs Moller and Novotny, members of the committee,

As a state, we are underfunding and understaffing the most important thing law enforcement can do to prevent crime: solving violent crimes. Successfully solving violent crimes sends a message that criminal behavior will not be tolerated, which deters future offenses, provides a sense of justice for victims, reduces the urge to retaliate, and builds public trust in law enforcement agencies.

SF 3347's funding will support dedicated teams of police, prosecutors and crime analysts who work together to solve nonfatal shooting cases from the point at which they are reported. This collaboration will enable teams to secure crime scenes and gather and preserve evidence immediately, increasing the odds of identifying those responsible for nonfatal shootings. This method has produced results:

- In 2019 the Denver Police Department increased its solve rate for gun assaults from 39 to 65 percent in 7 months.¹
- In 2024 the Saint Paul Police Department prioritized nonfatal shootings and raised the clearance rate from 37 percent to 71 percent.²

The best way law enforcement can prevent violent crime is to enhance the certainty of being caught. In 2024, only 47 percent of violent crimes reported to police in Minnesota were solved.³ Research suggests that smart investments in policing such as effective investigations may yield a "double dividend" by reducing incarceration and crime.⁴

HF 2742 directs state resources towards prioritizing investigations that are key to a safer future for all Minnesotans.

-Will Cooley, Policy Director, Minnesota Justice Research Center

¹ Schmelzer, E. "Denver police solved less than half of all nonfatal shootings last year. A new solution is showing promise," *Denver Post*, Nov. 13, 2020,

² <https://www.startribune.com/violent-crime-is-down-in-st-paul-heres-whats-working/601345555>

³ <https://projects.csgjusticecenter.org/tools-for-states-to-address-crime/50-state-crime-data/?state=MN>

⁴ Kaplan J, Chalfin A. "More cops, fewer prisoners?" *Criminology & Public Policy* (2019): 171–200.