



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

March 29th, 2021

The Honorable Members of the House of Representatives
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Regarding: House File 1369

Dear Representatives:

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association represents approximately 300 Police Chiefs and over 150 Command staff members throughout Minnesota. We express gratitude to the author for attempting to address an issue that is extremely important in an unprecedented time in our state's history. The increase in crime across the state is unlike anything we have experienced during our careers in Law Enforcement.

The MCPA strongly believes that requiring County Attorney's to provide data on felony level offenses that are dismissed or go uncharged is something that must pass this year. This is in response to massive violent crime increases at the hands of dangerous offenders who committed violent crimes and should have been charged for those serious offenses but, far too often were not charged or their cases were dismissed and consequently were allowed to commit additional crimes against the public.

While the bill does create a task force to study the issue, it falls far short in providing the public with important transparency they expect and deserve. For these and other reasons the MCPA cannot support this iteration of the bill.

Reporting summary data across the state would provide the public and the legislature with important information to make informed decisions about the efficacy of programmatic charging and dismissal decisions that are currently causing concerns in some areas of the State.

While we do not support House File 1369, we look forward to working with the Chair, committee members, and the Senate on finding a solution this session.

Jeff Potts

Jeff Potts

Executive Director