



DATE: March 18, 2026  
TO: Minnesota House Public Safety Committee  
RE: Support of House File 4043 (Witte)

Dear Members:

Law Enforcement Labor Services (LELS), the Minnesota State Patrol Troopers Association (MSPTA), the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Agents Association (BCAAA), and the Minnesota Department of Corrections Fugitive Apprehension Agents Association (FAAA) collectively represent more than 8,800 law enforcement officers and public safety professionals across Minnesota.

**Our organizations support House File 4043 as a necessary step to ensure that core law enforcement duties remain the responsibility of fully trained, POST-licensed peace officers**

House File 4043 reinforces a fundamental principle of public safety: that the authority and responsibilities of law enforcement should be carried out by individuals who have met the full standards required of licensed peace officers. Minnesota has established a comprehensive framework through POST licensure to ensure officers are properly trained, accountable, and prepared to perform these critical duties.

Public confidence in law enforcement depends on consistency, transparency, and professionalism. When individuals engage with law enforcement, they should have no uncertainty about whether the person exercising authority is fully qualified and held to the same standards as sworn officers. Clear expectations benefit not only the public, but also policymakers and agencies working to maintain high levels of accountability.

We are increasingly concerned by situations in which individuals who have not obtained POST licensure are tasked with functions traditionally performed by sworn officers. Assigning such responsibilities outside of established licensing standards introduces avoidable risks, including public misunderstanding, diminished accountability, and potential gaps in investigative quality.

Minnesota residents have consistently expressed their expectation that law enforcement duties be carried out by individuals who are thoroughly trained, properly certified, and held to uniform standards. Preserving this expectation is essential to sustaining trust and ensuring the effectiveness of our public safety system.

For these reasons, we respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of House File 4043.

Sincerely,

**Jim Mortenson**  
Executive Director  
LELS

**Jason Theel**  
President  
MSPTA

**Dustin Vanderhagen**  
President  
BCAAA

**Ben Uzlik**  
President  
FAAA