

Dear Chair Klevorn and Committee Members

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Agent's Association. We are asking for your support of HF 1600. You are all aware of the struggles law enforcement has in today's world of hiring and keeping quality candidates.

The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is no different. We continue to struggle to find quality investigators with the needed experience as we continue to strive to be premier investigative agency that the citizens of Minnesota expect as we are tasked with some of the most complex and high profile cases in the state.

Our agency has also been also been tasked with taking on a wide variety of investigations that we never did 10-15 years ago. These different investigations require more training and experience.

As a member of the MLEA, our bargaining group has been trying for years to get the most competitive wages to attract the candidates the BCA needs. MMB has continually not budged off the pattern settlement which has made the MLEA group not competitive in attracting qualified candidates.

In the hiring market of today the BCA needs competitive wages to continue to offer the high quality investigations that the citizens of Minnesota expect and deserve. .

The Legislature took action and attempted to address these issues in a recent session to include an OLA study to get the data MMB needs to bargain with. We support HF 1600 to get MMB to understand the true meaning of negotiating in a fair and competitive manner based off the data provided.

The BCA Agents Association has been in collaboration with other state law enforcement agencies to support this bill and all agree it is needed to attract the quality candidates and competitive wages.

Thank you for your consideration in this important bill.

Sincerely
William Bennett
BCA Agent's Association