



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

100 Empire Drive, Suite 222, St. Paul, MN 55103

Phone: 651.451.7216 Fax: 651.451.8087

Email: info@mnsheriffs.org

April 8, 2025

Representative Fue Lee
Co-Chair, House Capital Investment Committee

Representative Mary Franson
Co-Chair, House Capital Investment Committee

Dear Chairs Lee and Franson,

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), representing all 87 elected Sheriffs across the state, I write in strong support of House File 2587, authored by Representative Frederick.

This bill takes a meaningful step toward addressing a pressing issue in Minnesota: the lack of mental health treatment capacity for individuals committed as mentally ill and dangerous. County jails were never intended to serve as treatment facilities. Yet every day, sheriffs are left to house individuals who need clinical care—not incarceration.

HF 2587 builds urgently needed capacity. While it does not offer the full capacity needed at Anoka Regional Treatment Center it sends a clear message that the State is committed to long-term, systemic improvements. Sheriffs statewide see firsthand the strain this crisis places on staff, facilities, and the individuals caught in the system.

The extension of the 48-hour transfer requirement is difficult. However, sheriffs are willing to accept this temporary change with the understanding—and expectation—that investments in infrastructure are on the way. This bill provides assurance that funding critical secure treatment beds is foreseeable.

HF 2587 acknowledges the real challenges counties face and offers a path forward. For law enforcement, mental health professionals, and those in crisis, it represents progress.

We respectfully urge your support of House File 2587. It is not the final answer—but it is a vital beginning.

Sincerely,

James Stuart

Executive Director