

March 18, 2022

Members of the Minnesota House of Representatives,

On behalf of the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association, which represents over 300 police chiefs across Minnesota, I want to express our collective support for an important piece of the Department of Public Safety (DPS) budget.

The budget proposal before you today include an appropriation for the Violent Crime Reduction initiative through the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) that we feel will help improve public safety across the state. The funding for the Violent Crime Reduction Support Initiative will help combat the rise in violent crime the following ways:

* Forensic Testing – This part of the program will expand the use of forensics to better analyze firearm evidence in violent crime cases.
* Support for Agencies - This funding allows the BCA to support local agencies, the majority of which are smaller agencies, that simply do not have the resources, expertise, or tools available that the BCA does.
* Analytics – the proposal will help the BCA provide 24/7 analytical support for violent crime and serious large-scale threats like we have seen in recent years to our schools and faith-based institutions.

We are proud to support this initiative and appreciate Governor Walz, Commissioner Harrington, and everyone involved in their efforts to prioritize this issue. Our state has a historic opportunity with this surplus to prioritize public safety. The above listed initiatives will help to address the increases in serious crime that are impacting communities throughout out State.

Sincerely,



Jeff Potts

Executive Director