



MINNESOTA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

February 16, 2023

Dear Chair Moller and the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association representing the elected 87 county sheriffs across the state of Minnesota, I am writing in support of HF1279.

The Sheriffs of Minnesota support the idea of a state-administered fund for the examination of victim/survivors of criminal sexual conduct when the examination is performed for the purpose of gathering evidence. Currently there is no consistency within the billing system. The bills range from \$400 per examination to \$11,000. As you can imagine the cost of these examinations can have a significant impact on counties, especially the smaller counties.

The Sheriffs of Minnesota are committed to all victim/survivors receiving the care without delay and at no cost. We recognize the obligation to maintain the victim's rights and wellbeing through the examinations and do not want any victim to receive a bill for these services. Having a state administered fund will streamline billing and reimbursement processes, ensure victim/survivor confidentiality, and promote equity across the state.

Respectfully,

William M. Hutton
Executive Director