



April 17, 2023

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2890 (Moller).

Metro Cities supports flexible state funding for public safety innovation at the local level. Metro Cities supports funding in Article 1, Section 13 for the Community Crime and Violence Prevention Account. Metro Cities supports the use of this account to award grants to cities and organizations working collaboratively with local governments for community crime and violence prevention programs including but not limited to juvenile diversion programs.

Metro Cities supports other key funding provisions found in Article 1 of HF 2890 including:

- \$1 million each year for grants to local governments to purchase or upgrade equipment that can be used as part of the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication System and over \$20 million to MnDOT for the cost of operating the statewide radio system backbone.
- \$7.5 million each year for youth intervention programs under Minnesota Statutes, Section 299A.73.
- \$3 million each year for grants to law enforcement agencies and local governments to build or maintain mental health co-responder models.
- Investments in first responder mental health.
- \$7 million to support Public Safety Answering Points' transition to Next Generation 911.
- \$2.9 million each year for reimbursements to local governments for peace officer training costs.

Metro Cities supports Article 7, Section 10, which requires that the Department of Public Safety's annual uniform crime report include data on carjacking, as its own distinct category.

Local agencies of all sizes in the metropolitan region are experiencing retention and recruitment challenges. **Metro Cities supports the reimbursements for officer training, retention bonuses, and student loan costs** found in Article 8, Section 16 of HF 2890.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund".

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities