

Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association 525 Park Street, Suite 250, Saint Paul, MN 55103-2145

Phone: 651.291.1119 Website: www.MPPOA.com

Dear Chair and Members of the Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the over 10,000 rank-and-file members of the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA), we write to express our strong support for the proposed legislation HF2525, that would allocate funding for a pilot program providing active hearing protection for law enforcement officers.

Law enforcement professionals routinely work in environments where sudden, high-decibel noises—such as gunfire, sirens, and other operational hazards—pose a significant risk to their hearing. Long-term exposure to these conditions contributes to hearing loss. Traditional hearing protection, while effective in reducing noise exposure, can also limit situational awareness, thereby increasing operational risks.

Active hearing protection technology, such as electronic in-ear devices, mitigates these concerns by allowing officers to hear critical communications and ambient sounds while simultaneously protecting against harmful noise levels. Implementing a pilot program to evaluate the effectiveness of this technology would provide valuable data on its benefits and operational feasibility while prioritizing officer safety.

By investing in this initiative, the legislature would be taking a proactive approach to protecting the well-being of law enforcement officers and enhancing their ability to perform their duties safely and effectively. We urge the committee to advance this legislation and allocate the necessary resources to support its implementation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate your commitment to the health and safety of our law enforcement professionals. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can provide further information or assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

David A. Titus -Deputy Director

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