



To: Minnesota House of Representatives
From: Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition
Date: February 15, 2022
Re: Opposition to House File 717 (Vang): Civil statute of limitations extended for peace officer actions

Dear Members of House of Representatives:

The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), and the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPOA) represent more than 300 police chiefs, 87 county sheriffs, and approximately 10,400 rank-and-file officers, respectively.

On behalf of Minnesota's three largest statewide law enforcement associations, we are writing to respectively convey our opposition to House File 717 (Vang).

Statutes of limitation are designed to promote justice by encouraging plaintiffs to diligently pursue their claims. Timeliness is important - as without it, evidence could be lost, memories could fade, and witnesses may disappear. In addition, House File 717 does not appear to limit the application to damages caused solely while on duty. The language creates potential lifelong liability for anyone serving or who has served as a law enforcement officer. Lastly, our organizations strongly oppose the singling out law enforcement personnel for this change in the statutes of limitations.

In conclusion, our Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition strongly supports fairness and efficacy of the civil justice system and does not support House File 717.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director, Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association

Bill Hutton
Executive Director, Minnesota Sheriffs' Association

Jeff Potts
Executive Director, Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association

