

March 14, 2023

Chair Moller  
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota Senate Building  
95 University Avenue W.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Moller -

I would like to offer my support for HF 2465 and thank Rep. Huot for his work on this bill. Recruiting and retaining licensed peace officers has becoming one of the most pressing issues facing the Minneapolis Police Department.

The Minneapolis Police Department, like many departments across the state, is facing an extremely challenging recruiting environment.

I welcome the opportunity to partner with the State to address these issues and we are glad to support this bill as a good beginning to address the recruitment and retention crisis that is facing the profession of law enforcement. The funding included to reimburse quality candidates for their education will help address the issue of education costs for those wanting to make a career change and become a law enforcement officer. The retention bonuses can be helpful if the length of time required for an officer to stay with a department is adequate. I am optimistic that the changes to insurance eligibility will be an effective incentive for officers to continue serving their communities.

I would like to further encourage the committee to take an innovative approach to identify and remove other barriers faced by those with relevant skills and experience that could make them excellent officers. I am confident that we can and should take additional steps to expand the eligible pool of peace officers while still maintaining the high standard we expect from our officers.

I urge you to pass HF 2465 and I look forward to partnering with you to address this very urgent problem.

Sincerely,



Brian O’Hara  
Chief of Police  
Minneapolis, MN