



April 15, 2024

Dear Representative Kelly Moller, Chair, House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

We, representing the Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition, including the Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association (MPPOA), the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), and the Minnesota Sheriffs' Association (MSA), write collectively to express our opposition to HF5216 DE1 Article 2 Section 1 lines 8.26 – 8.28.

*ARTICLE 2 PUBLIC SAFETY; Section 1. [169.905] TRAFFIC STOP; QUESTIONING LIMITED.
8.26 A peace officer making a traffic stop for a violation of this chapter or chapter 168 must
8.27 inform the vehicle's operator of a reason for the stop before engaging in questioning related
8.28 to a suspected traffic violation.*

While we appreciate the intent behind HF5216DE1 Article 2 Section 1, we have concerns regarding its practical implementation and potential consequences. One of our primary concerns is the specific language requirement imposed on peace officers during traffic stops under Minnesota Statute 168 and 169.

It is essential to recognize that law enforcement practices and procedures are carefully developed and vetted by both the community and law enforcement professionals to ensure the safety and well-being of all parties involved. Mandating specific language during traffic stops may inadvertently undermine this established protocol, potentially compromising the safety of both the motor vehicle operator and law enforcement officers.

While informing the driver for the reason of the traffic stop can be appropriate in certain situations, there are also instances where it may be less safe or effective, depending on the unique circumstances of each traffic stop. Law enforcement officers are trained to assess and adapt their communication strategies based on real-time situational factors, and imposing predetermined language requirements could limit their ability to effectively manage unpredictable scenarios.

We believe that any changes to law enforcement procedures should be carefully considered and thoroughly vetted by both the community and law enforcement professionals to ensure that they enhance public safety and uphold the principles of effective policing.

Thank you for considering our concerns regarding HF 5216 Article 2 Section 1.

Respectfully,

Brian Peters, Executive Director
Minnesota Police and Peace Officers
Association

Jeff Potts, Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association

James Stewart, Executive Director
Minnesota Sheriffs' Association