



Association of Minnesota Counties

February 1, 2021

Representative Carlos Mariani
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Chair,

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) wishes to express our support for H.F. 445, a bill establishing the State Aid For Emergencies (SAFE) account which is intended to provide aid in the form of reimbursement to local governments and state agencies for expenses incurred in responding to extraordinary or unplanned public safety events.

AMC supports a coordinated and efficient law enforcement partnership between state and local jurisdictions that includes shared funding responsibility and local authority for coordination of emergency management services. County emergency management and law enforcement agencies must plan for a wide variety of emergency situations which often require collaboration with other local governments through the provision of mutual aid.

The SAFE account would support mutual aid between counties, cities, and the state by creating an avenue for reimbursement of unplanned costs incurred while providing support to other jurisdictions. Though counties prepare for many types of emergency situations, there will undoubtedly be situations that fall outside the scope of annual budget planning and we are appreciative that H.F. 445 recognizes these extraordinary circumstances and limits on local fiscal resources.

If you have any questions about AMC's position on this bill or have questions about our policy positions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Carli Stark, Public Safety Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties