



TRISTA MATASCASTILLO
Ramsey County Commissioner
District 3

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January 31, 2022

Re: Support for HF 2724 (Frazier)

Dear Chair Mariani and Committee Members:

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is proud to offer our support to HF 2724 (Frazier), a bill that makes significant efforts to address the public safety needs of our communities. This legislation, particularly Article 1, aligns well with efforts already underway at Ramsey County.

Ramsey County is committed to working with our communities to share decision making and find innovative, sustainable, transformative solutions to public safety. One such initiative is Healing Streets, which is focused on disrupting cycles of violence and fostering healing in communities that have suffered historical trauma. Centered in the narratives and lived experiences of those most impacted by gun-related violence, The Healing Streets Project works to reduce violence through the direct service work of School Based Violence Prevention, Hospital-based Violence Prevention, and Healing/Grief Services for survivors of group/gun violence. This is a long-term public health-based response to the epidemic of retaliatory gun violence we face in our communities. This initiative, and ones like it, are exactly the type of community-based initiatives supported and envisioned by this important legislation. Our County Attorney and Sheriff and other county leaders have been collaborating on evidence-based focused deterrence initiatives in response to recent increases in violent crimes, and those efforts depend on these types of investments.

Public safety is of critical importance to us in Ramsey County and we are excited about the opportunities laid out in this legislation to engage in a comprehensive, community-based preventive approach to protecting our communities. It is incumbent upon us as leaders to address the root causes of violence and work with our residents to find solutions. We strongly support this legislation and urge committee members to support it as well. Please feel free to contact Melissa Finnegan (651-278-8374) with any questions.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trista MatasCastillo".

Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo
Ramsey County Board Chair