



February 4, 2021

The Honorable Aisha Gomez  
529 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

**SUBJECT: H.F. 640 - Local units of government required to establish law enforcement citizen oversight councils; powers and duties of the councils and the responsibilities of local authorities specified toward them; law enforcement policies, guidelines, training, and reporting required on matters relating to procedural justice and community interactions; and money appropriated**

Dear Representative Gomez,

On behalf of the League of Minnesota Cities and our 835 member cities, I am writing to respectfully oppose H.F. 640 (Gomez), a bill that requires every local unit of government that oversees a law enforcement agency to establish a citizen oversight council. The League supports the existing authority that local units of government have to establish citizen oversight councils; however, the mandatory nature of H.F. 640 infringes on local control. The bill also lacks full funding, which constitutes an unfunded mandate.

One of the League's core principles is that local elected decision-makers are in the best position to determine what health, safety and welfare regulations best serve their constituents. Just like state legislative leaders, local elected officials are held accountable through Minnesota's robust elections process. The provisions in H.F. 640 impede local decision-making and fail to recognize the differences between communities throughout Minnesota.

If you have any questions about the League's position on this legislation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Finn".

Anne Finn  
Assistant Intergovernmental Relations Director