
T H E M I N N E S O T A
C O U N T Y A T T O R N E Y S
A S S O C I A T I O N

January 15, 2021

Representative Michael Nelson
Chair, State Government Finance and Elections Committee
585 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Nelson:

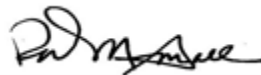
I write on behalf of the County Attorneys Association to express our support for the Attorney General's Budget Request for the next two biennia. As you know, the Attorney General's Criminal Division plays a critical role in helping County Attorneys in difficult criminal cases when County Attorneys seek that assistance. The Attorney General's office has helped our greater Minnesota County Attorneys in homicide cases but due to the lack of Criminal Division staff has not accepted requests for assistance in other cases involving violent crime, white collar crime, financial exploitation, and multi-county prosecutions of drug or human trafficking. The budget request will address the issue of inadequate Criminal Division resources for the Attorney General to adequately respond to County Attorneys' requests in these difficult cases.

Attorney General Ellison has personally visited with County Attorneys, listened to their concerns and responded to those concerns by including funding for additional resources to gradually build his office's capacity to aid our greater Minnesota County Attorneys enforce the law in their jurisdictions. While our County Attorneys do an admirable job of prosecuting cases typical of their communities, many serve in small offices and, in some cases, with part-time staff. In the rare instance of a serious crime occurring in these greater Minnesota counties, it is often beyond the experience and resources of these small offices to properly prosecute the case. A group of experienced prosecutors from the Attorney General's office to respond to a request for assistance is in the best interests of public safety.

We urge you to support the Attorney General's budget request to address these needs.

Thank you for your support of the public safety needs in Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Small
Executive Director

cc: Attorney General Ellison

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