



To: Representative Athena Hollins, Author
Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

From: Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition

Subject: HF2319 - Admission prohibition in judicial proceedings of certain custodial statements

Date: March 12, 2024

On behalf of the members of the Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition, we write in unison to voice our opposition to HF2319 and to encourage members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee to vote against this bill.

The Minnesota Law Enforcement Coalition represents more than 10,000 police and prosecutors. The coalition includes the Minnesota Peace and Police Officers Association (MPPOA), the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), and the Minnesota Sheriffs Association (MSA).

Under current Minnesota law, a defendant has the opportunity before trial to challenge the admissibility of a statement on many grounds. One of those many grounds is whether or not the statement was voluntary based on techniques that were used by police during the interrogation. The prosecution has the burden to prove that the statement was voluntary. A Judge must then assess the totality of the circumstances surrounding the statement, including the interrogation techniques used and the effects of those tactics on the particular defendant. In other words, current law provides adequate safeguards to exclude non-voluntary statements.

We oppose any efforts to restrict the ability of Law Enforcement to employ all judiciously allowable techniques during custodial interviews.

Sincerely,

Brian Peters
Executive Director
Minnesota Police & Peace Officers Association

James Stuart
Executive Director
MN Sheriffs' Association

Jeff Potts
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association