



Office of the Commissioner

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Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal

Dear Chair Mariani,

I am writing today in support of HF 2792, the Omnibus House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform budget bill and to relay a few concerns.

Thank you for including critical investments in public safety in the bill. HF 2792 fully funds Governor Walz's 2020-2021 budget recommendations, making important investments in the work of the Department of Public Safety.

- Your investments build on the foundation of providing critical IT infrastructure funding, including the automated fingerprint information system which is currently more than a decade old.
- The Department looks forward to implementing the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women Task Force, which will bring a voice to missing women who have too often been ignored.
- The investments made to the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension will improve the statewide response to sexual assault cases and investigations involving vulnerable adults.
- Removing the sunset of the Railroad and Pipeline Safety Assessment provides a stable and ongoing funding source for the related work of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. This includes trainings for local communities along railways and pipelines, as well as partially funding HAZMAT teams and their equipment.
- There is a groundswell of interest from local school districts in receiving technical assistance from the School Safety Center. By fully funding the two additional FTEs we will be better able to meet that demand and provide the program improvements that have been requested by stakeholders.
- Gun safety is a paramount and urgent issue today. Your inclusion of both the background check and extreme risk protection order language will keep Minnesotans safer. Thank you for continuing to raise this conversation and move these changes forward.

However, there are three outstanding issues that DPS continues to have concerns regarding.

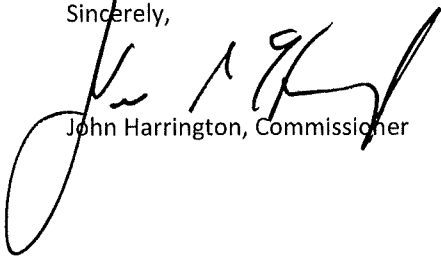
- DPS would like to continue working with you on the best avenue to implement a Legislative Cannabis Task Force. The governor has been clear and consistent in his support of responsible progress toward legalization of cannabis, however the legislature must lead in further efforts to build community consensus around the effort. A cannabis task force convened by the Legislative Coordinating Council is one option we would support.
- DPS also hopes to continue working with you regarding the Peace Officer Discipline Database and server storage. Finding the right "home" for the database, understanding the total cost of ownership including ongoing maintenance and ensuring we protect the data currently on Bureau of Criminal Apprehension servers while allowing public access to this data are remaining questions to be answered.

- I have concerns regarding the drone language that was added to this bill. DPS has worked with advocates over the last five years to find language that works for state agencies and local law enforcement, while addressing the concerns of advocates. However, the language added to the bill is not the language that was agreed to and, therefore, I must oppose it.

I am confident we can continue to work together to find a resolution to these issues.

The Department of Public Safety works to keep Minnesotans safe through prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, enforcement and education. Thank you for making the investments to move that mission forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Harrington". The signature is stylized with a large loop on the left side and a long, sweeping stroke on the right.

John Harrington, Commissioner