



April 14, 2022

Representative Carlos Mariani, Chair  
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
479 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

*Via electronic delivery*

Dear Chair Mariani:

Now that the deadline for committee action on legislative initiatives has passed, we want to express our disappointment in the House DFL Majority for the lip service you have been giving to making our communities safer without advancing bills that will actually do so.

Early this legislative session, House Republicans unveiled a package of bills that will reverse the dramatic increase in crime by holding criminals responsible for their actions, helping recruit and retain peace officers, and providing transparency to prosecution's charging decisions and the court's sentencing decisions. These measures will make our communities safer. Unfortunately, the House Public Safety Committee chose not to hear these bills.

Instead, the DFL's solution is to give money to violence-interrupters and grow the state government bureaucracy by tens of millions of dollars and dozens of new FTEs in an office building in St. Paul.

In addition to solutions House Republicans brought, there were even a few DFL-authored bills designed to tackle violent crimes and recruit and retain peace officers. They include:

- HF 3139 (Edelson) – enhanced penalty for fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle,
- HF 3140 (Edelson) – enhanced penalty for fleeing a peace officer in a motor vehicle in a reckless manner,
- HF 3581 (Winkler) – expedited peace officer education and training,
- HF 4338 (Wolgammott) – peace officer recruitment and retention bonuses reimbursement grants, and
- HF 4425 (Huot) – grants for educating high school students on careers in law enforcement.
- HF 4624 (Her) – grants for secure treatment facilities for juveniles

Even these Democrat-authored bills were ignored and did not receive hearings. When Republican members – in the spirit of working together – tried to amend these bills onto the omnibus, DFL Committee members voted no.

The Senate, on the other hand, has advanced a public safety bill that includes many of our initiatives. They include criminalizing the offense of carjacking, which has exploded over the past two years; enhanced penalties for violent crimes by offenders with a history of multiple violent offenses; and requiring prosecutors to report when they dismiss charges on a case.

There is still time before the legislative session ends for the House DFL to set aside wasteful spending that will not result in safer communities and instead pass a public safety omnibus that will bring down the crime rate in our state.

We stand ready to work with you to pass real public safety solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Brian Johnson, Lead  
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kurt Daudt", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Representative Kurt Daudt, Leader  
House Republican Caucus

cc: Representative Melissa Hortman, Speaker of the House  
Representative Ryan Winkler, House Majority Leader  
House Republican Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Committee Members