



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

April 11, 2022

Commissioner Roslyn Robertson
Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
By email – Kate.Perushek@state.mn.us

Re: WCAC Consideration of Legislative Proposals, HF 4026, SF 3943

Dear Commissioner Robertson and Members of the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council:

On behalf of more than 300 police chiefs in our state, the Minnesota Chief of Police Association (MCPA) implores the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council to support legislation that provides our police officers the opportunity to receive treatment for mental health injuries occurring as part of their professional duties as police officers serving our communities.

Through our participation in the League of Minnesota Cities workgroup as well as independent mental health professionals, we know that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is a treatable illness. Our association believes that police officers that serve our community with dedication and professionalism desire an opportunity to receive treatment prior to leaving employment as police officers.

Since 2019 there has been an increase in the number of PTSD duty disabilities that have created an unsustainable financial outlook but more importantly, we are not getting these police officers and firefighters the treatment they need and desire. This is not a short-term issue that we can afford to take a wait and see strategy; rather it is an issue that is threatening public safety throughout the state for our residents.

We recognize this is a difficult issue to resolve and we further recognize that inaction is not in the best interest of police officers, firefighters, public employers, or the residents of the state of Minnesota.

The currently proposed legislation (HF 4026 and SF 3943) are much needed first steps in getting our police officers and firefighters the needed support to address mental health injuries and prevention. We would like to thank Senator Howe and Representative Long for their assistance in addressing this crisis.

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Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Potts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" and "T".

Jeff Potts

Executive Director

Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association