



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 30, 2017

The Honorable Kurt Daudt
Speaker of the House
State Office Building, Room 463
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Speaker Daudt:

On the advice of my General Counsel, to ensure there are no legal challenges, I am signing Chapter 95, House File 470.

I believe funding Public Safety is not an optional matter and must be done to keep Minnesotans safe. As my Commissioners have stated routinely, there were no bells and whistles in my original budget. Every request was a need. Some of them, you approved:

- **\$38 million for The Department of Corrections (DOC) Employee Compensation:**
This funding will allow Commissioner Roy to maintain 200-250 positions and avoid layoffs.
- **\$4.3 million for food and utilities operating costs at DOC:**
This funding will go towards the State's statutory obligation to feed and house offenders in Minnesota's correctional facilities.
- **\$11.4 million for offender health care:**
This is another obligation of the state and is crucial to keeping offenders and staff in facilities healthy. This also helps address the rising costs of Hepatitis C, which is rising at alarming rate in facilities.
- **\$1.1 million for the enforcement of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)**
This funding will ensure DOC complies with the federal PREA regulations. Failure to comply could have resulted in financial penalties and ineligibility for certain federal funds.
- **\$6.4 million for Community services:**
Allowing the DOC to pass through additional funding to counties to provide community supervision.
- **\$6.4 million for the Department of Public Safety's (DPS) operational support:**
Without this funding, DPS would not be able to maintain current levels of service to local communities and Minnesotans ranging from supporting crime victims to assisting with natural disasters or violent crimes.
- **\$4.1 million for a replacement system for Predatory Offender Registry (POR):**
This system holds more than 31,000 records on predatory offenders. A new system will provide more reliable, timely and accurate data to make the POR system more easily integrated with other systems.

- **\$1.4 million for more investigations staff at the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA):**
Although this is not my full request, this funding is a start to allowing the BCA Investigations Division to provide investigative assistance to criminal justice agencies statewide.
- **\$300,000 for BCA Drug Chemistry Staff:**
This funding will decrease the turnaround times at the drug chemistry lab and the investment will increase public safety by providing evidence for cases to move more quickly.
- **\$12 million for Police Training:**
This funding aligns with the recommendations of the Governor's Council on Law Enforcement and Community Relations and provides training for law enforcement officers across the state on de-escalation and crisis intervention training.
- **Additional funding for the courts:**
The amount funded is not the full courts ask, but allows them to maintain a well-functioning court system.

I appreciate the work of the legislature and leaders. However, I am disappointed that the following items initiatives that I believe to be very important were not funded:

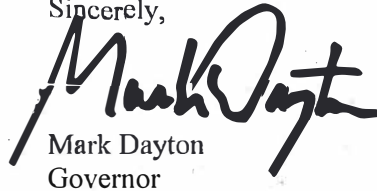
- **\$3.1 million for Mental Health Services and \$3.7 million for restrictive housing reform at DOC:** With this funding, DOC would have been able to increase their mental health programming, counseling and cognitive skills development. This is extremely necessary as DOC has seen a 20% increase in the number of offenders with a mental illness.
- **\$6 million for DOC Security Staffing and Security Systems Upgrades:** Adequate security coverage is paramount to operating a safe and secure prison. This funding would have hired additional correctional officers and updated or replaced security systems.
- **\$2 million for additional Medical and Nursing at DOC facilities:** Funding for medical and nursing services would have increased on-site clinical services, mitigate overtime, accommodate the medical needs of offenders in special programming and expand 24/7 nursing services at one additional correctional facility.
- **\$3.5 million for offender case management at DOC:** This funding would have increased the provision of integrated case management services that are effective in reducing recidivism for high risk offenders.
- **\$200,000 for a Drug Monitoring Analyst at the BCA:** This investment would have further supported public safety partners with addressing the growing opioid epidemic.
- **\$20 million for the Disaster Contingency Account:** Because there was no immediate resources into the Disaster Contingency Account, local governments will have to wait until a special session is called to approve emergency funding during a natural disaster.

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Finally, there is one policy provision that I am particularly disappointed in: the DPS rulemaking prohibition. As I have said continuously, this provision is not necessary as DPS does not have the authority to engage in rulemaking. I still strongly support any legislation that gives DPS express authority to engage in rulemaking to create a path for Driver's Licenses for All. It is my hope that the legislature will look at this issue on its own and work to pass a bill. This is a public safety issue that needs to be addressed and has broad support.

In closing, I again thank you for funding the core operations of my agencies and hope that we can revisit some of my other funding requests in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton". The signature is stylized and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "D".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate
Senator Paul E. Gazelka, Senate Majority Leader
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Senate Minority Leader
Senator Scott J. Newman, Minnesota Senate
Representative Melissa Hortman, House Minority Leader
Representative Paul Torkelson, House of Representatives
The Honorable Steve Simon, Secretary of State
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate
Mr. Patrick Murphy, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives
Mr. Paul Marinac, Revisor of Statutes