



December 27, 2016

Dear Member of the Minnesota Legislature:

As members of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a nationwide, bipartisan, non-profit organization of more than 5,000 police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors, and violence survivors – including 139 members in Minnesota – we are committed to research-based solutions that prevent crime. Research confirms that high-quality early care and education programs can decrease the chances that a child will become involved in crime later in life. For that reason, **we ask you to prioritize funding in the 2017 legislative session to improve the quality of, and access to, Minnesota early care and education.**

Many studies show that quality early education will prepare children for kindergarten and lead to better results in the classroom for years. Research also highlights impressive outcomes for public safety. A study that tracked children who participated in a high-quality preschool program through Chicago's Child-Parent Centers (CPC) found that **children not served were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime by age 18 compared to those kids who participated in the program.** A similar study that followed kids who were left out of the High Scope/Perry Preschool program in Michigan found that they were five times more likely to be chronic offenders by age 27 than those kids who participated in the program.

In order to achieve a similar public safety impact that has resulted from other programs, early education programs need to be high quality and families need to be able to access them. Minnesota has made significant progress on improving the quality of early education programs through expanding the Parent Aware program, Early Learning Scholarships, and incentives for improving child care providers who serve low-income families. Despite this progress, about half of children from low-income families in Minnesota do not have access to high-quality programs and scholarships only reach about 15% of students who qualify for them.

As leaders of departments and agencies, we certainly understand the challenges you face determining funding priorities as you work to balance our state's budget. But rather than waiting to arrest, prosecute, and incarcerate more criminals years from now, we should invest in solutions that can prevent crime in the first place. As law enforcement leaders, we urge you to prioritize funding for Minnesota's early care and education programs.

Sincerely,

/s/

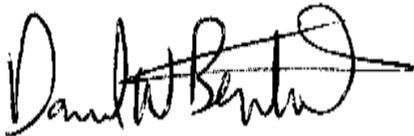
Matt Andres
Chief of Police
Sleepy Eye Police Department



James Backstrom
County Attorney
Dakota County Attorney's Office



Rodney Bartsh
Sheriff
Wabash County Sheriff's Office



David Bentrud
Chief of Police
Waite Park Police Department

/s/

John Choi
County Attorney
Ramsey County Attorney's Office



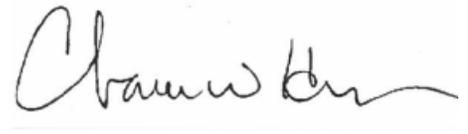
Doug Ebeltoft
Chief of Police
Spring Lake Police Department



Michael Freeman
Country Attorney
Hennepin County Attorney's Office



Michael Goldstein
Chief of Police
Plymouth Police Department



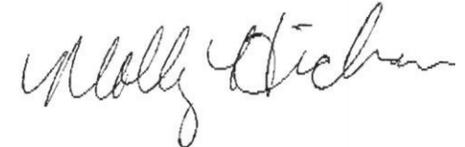
Charles Hanson
Country Attorney
Brown County Attorney's Office



Janee Harteau
Chief of Police
Minneapolis Police Department



Michael Hedlund
Chief of Police
East Grand Folks Police Department



Molly Hicken
County Attorney
Cook County Attorney's Office

/s/

Mitchell Johnsrud
Chief of Police
Starbuck Police Department



Scott Knight
Chief of Police
Chaska Police Department



David Lange
Sheriff
Nicollet County Attorney's Office



Chad Larson
County Attorney
Douglas County Attorney's Office

/s/

Thomas Lauth
Chief of Police
North Saint Paul Police Department



Peter Orput
County Attorney
Washington County Attorney's Of



Roger Pohlman
Chief of Police
Red Wing Police Department



Mark Rubin
County Attorney
St. Louis County Attorney's Office



Bryan Schaffner
Chief of Police
Hastings Police Department



Rodney Seurer
Chief of Police
Savage Police Department



Jeffrey Stadum
Chief of Police
Pelican Rapids Police Department



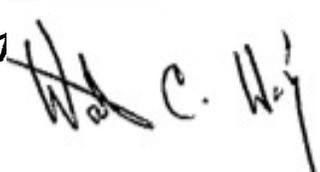
James Stuart
Sheriff
Anoka County Sheriff's Office

/s/

Jeff Tate
Chief of Police
Shakopee Police Department



David Togelson
County Attorney
Reville Country Attorney's Office



Walter Wobig
Chief of Police
Proctor Police Department