

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-2306**

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chairman  
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Matt Cartwright  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 3, 2024

I am writing to express support for including the highest possible funding that the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) Subcommittee sees fit for the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program grants within the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office at the Department of Justice (DOJ) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2025.

I was proud to support the LEMHWA when the legislation passed the House of Representatives with overwhelming support and was subsequently signed into law by President Trump in January 2018. This bill directed the DOJ to create a grant program for law enforcement agencies to manage their stress and symptoms of negative mental health effects that are associated with their job. More specifically, the legislation provides resources and grants for law enforcement agencies to develop practices of peer mentoring, train for best mental health practices, provide the families of law enforcement with support resources, and offer tools for suicide prevention.

In FY23, the COPS Office awarded nearly \$9.2 million in LEMHWA grants to 61 law enforcement agencies in 32 states and the District of Columbia.<sup>1</sup> Four law enforcement agencies in Minnesota received a LEMHWA grant, including one in the Sixth Congressional District, Anoka County.<sup>1</sup> This is only a fraction of the law enforcement agencies across the country – it is clear that more work and resources are needed to continue to improve mental health resources for law enforcement agencies.

Our law enforcement officers put their lives on the line every day, walking into stressful, life-or-death situations to keep their communities safe. Recently in Minnesota, two police officers and one firefighter were shot and killed while they were responding to a domestic incident.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, this incident is not an isolated event and Minnesota law enforcement officers continue to bear the weight of these tragic deaths. Studies have shown that law enforcement officers have twice the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder or depression compared to

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. 2023 Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) Program Awards.

[https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2023AwardDocs/lemhwa/award\\_list.pdf](https://cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/2023AwardDocs/lemhwa/award_list.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Karnowski, S. (2024, February 21). What to know about the Minnesota shooting that killed 2 police officers and a firefighter. Associated Press. <https://apnews.com/article/burnsville-minnesota-police-shooting-details-d0bf1062499b25a818da45c3c9596a28>.

the average American.<sup>3</sup>

As a country, we need to do more to support the mental health of our law enforcement officers. Funding for the LEMHWA grant program is desperately needed and would provide critical resources for law enforcement departments across Minnesota's Sixth Congressional District. To that end, I hope you will continue to support the important work of the LEMHWA grants so that law enforcement agencies can take steps to address their mental health needs.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and please know that my office is willing to assist your efforts in whatever way possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Emmer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress

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3 Santre, S. (2024, February 17). Mental Disorders and Mental Health Promotion in Police Officers. National Institutes of Health.  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10875161/#:~:text=When%20compared%20to%20the%20general,a%20lower%20quality%20of%20life.>