



MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

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December 6, 2012

House of Representatives Legislative Committee

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Capitol Building

P.O. Box 30014

Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Reference: SB1315 and SB1321

Honorable Representatives of the Judiciary Committee:

By way of introduction, my name is Robert Stevenson, I am the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. I am writing this letter to you on behalf of the men and women that serve in leadership positions in the 400 police departments across this great state. I have the pleasure of being able to serve as their voice on two legislative initiatives that have great import to them.

SB115 grants police officers the legal authority to conduct warrantless searches of parolees in the same manner in which searches of this nature are currently being conducted by MDOC parole agents. It is believed that this increase in authority will serve as a force multiplier to the efforts of parole agents and will serve as a disincentive to those parolees, a group with an unacceptably high recidivism rate, from committing a new criminal offense, thereby, serving as a deterrent to criminal activity and a reduction in the demand for bed space in our local jails and our state's prisons. Please refer to the attached talking points for additional information and an enumeration of the key law enforcement organizations and individuals that are in support of our cause.

SB1321 requires a private security guard, private security police officer, or private college security police officer that reasonably suspects that an assaultive crime or a crime involving child sexually abusive activity or pornography to immediately notify law enforcement. Simply put, this bill would criminalize incidents such as the one that occurred at the University of Michigan Hospital when security personnel had reason to believe that a staff doctor possessed child sexually abusive pornography on his flash-drive, and they failed to make a timely report of the information to law enforcement. This bill received widespread support in the Senate and passed a floor vote unanimous, bipartisan support.

Both SB1315 and SB1321 have advanced to the House of Representatives and have been referred to the Judiciary Committee – your committee. The next committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2012, and as we are all aware the end of the lame duck session is fast approaching. The MACP is very aware of the fact that your committee

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and the House of Representatives as a whole have their own priorities, and undoubtedly each special interest group is lobbying you to advance bills that affect their respective needs and wants. In reference to SB1315 and 1321, the MACP is advancing the interests of public safety and the citizenry we are sworn to serve. Each of these bills we are advancing has the ability to assist law enforcement to protect those that may be victimized by individuals that wish to do them harm.

We ask for you to assist us in our efforts. We ask that you respect our requests. We ask that you allow each of these bills to receive a hearing in front of your honored membership and to stand and fall on their own respective merit. Please don't let either of these bills die in the House without any chance of review, discussion, and vote.

The MACP stands ready to provide testimony in support of these bills at a date and time of your choosing. Thank you in advance for your anticipated attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert Stevenson,
Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Executive Director

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