



Senate Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony with comments on S.B. 112 S.D. 1, Relating to Police Reports
Hearing: February 11, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes government transparency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony with **comments** on S.B. 112 S.D. 1. We **recommend reverting to the original bill draft** to better effectuate the intent of this measure.

As originally drafted, this measure promoted reasonable transparency for the surviving family members of individuals subject to a police investigation. The S.D. 1, however, presents an illusory promise of that by providing disclosure *only* upon “conclusion of all criminal proceedings related to the incident.” Not all police investigations lead to criminal proceedings. And some investigations never close – there is no statute of limitations for the crime of murder, for example.

Surviving family members deserve to understand the government’s investigation into the death of a loved one. Five years from the completion of a closing report, or seven years from the underlying event, is a long time to wait for that understanding – and more than enough time for the resolution of criminal proceedings.

The trial-related concerns expressed in opposition testimony are adequately addressed by criminal rules of procedure and the judges who preside over such proceedings.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify with comments on S.B. 112 S.D. 1.

