



POLICE DEPARTMENT
Peter Carey
Chief of Police

April 11, 2018

Honorable Senators and Representatives:

I am proud to join my colleagues in the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police in support of Senate Bill 18-223, Autopsy Reports Death of a Minor. I support efforts to protect juvenile autopsy reports from public disclosure, while still maintaining disclosure for those with a specific need for the information.

All too often, law enforcement officers across the state respond to child deaths as the result of murder, suicide, traffic crashes, and medical reasons. While the details of these cases change, the one constant is the trauma experienced by that child's surviving family members. Many of our agencies have specialized programs in place to support families, and we continually look for ways to ease their burden or at least minimize how much our systems add to their burden.

Families in crisis deserve to keep private the details of their child's death. These families should never have to worry about the detailed, graphic descriptions found in autopsy reports being repeated in the public domain. While we cannot always achieve that goal, this bill does much to protect this information.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,


Peter Carey
Chief of Police