



March 17, 2022

RE: HF 4185 – Criminal Justice Data Infrastructure

Dear Members of the House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) represents the 35 Minnesota counties that have chosen to provide probation and supervised release supervision under the Community Corrections Act. MACCAC counties provide supervision for the majority of individuals on probation and supervised release in Minnesota.

On behalf of MACCAC, we thank you for considering HF 4185. MACCAC supports the creation of consistent statewide standards for data collection through the current statewide probation database, CSTS, used by all probation delivery systems in Minnesota. **All probation providers should regularly collect and analyze data to identify existing disparities and create changes within their probation agencies to address and eradicate those disparities.** We support changes that go through the corrections user group governance process to ensure input from all users is considered. MACCAC encourages the legislature to consider proposals that create better data for decision making in the criminal justice sector.

Though we do not yet have a position on this bill, we support the concept of better connecting current data systems that are used by different criminal justice partners to ensure that clients receive the services they need to change behavior. As the bill moves forward, MACCAC asks the legislature ensures that resources are established to assist counties with needed data entry staff and technology upgrades to allow for integration into any new systems. Additionally, we strongly believe that all entities that are required to connect to any new data infrastructure should be afforded input on the choice of technology provider.

We hope to work with Representative Moller and other members of the legislature as this bill continues through the legislature this session.

Should you have any questions about our thoughts or concerns about the bill, please do not hesitate to reach out at cstark@mncounties.org.

Sincerely,

Carli E. Stark, Executive Director
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties