



November 13, 2020

Heather Tubman-Carbone, PhD
Senior Policy Advisor
Bureau of Justice Assistance
810 Seventh Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20531

Dear Ms. Tubman-Carbone:

The State of Minnesota is facing significant economic challenges going into Fiscal Year 2022-2023. It is evident that there is a potential for budgetary cuts across state and county departments. The Public Safety sector is at risk for significant cuts that could decrease public safety in Minnesota.

Our associations encourage the Council of State Governments (CSG) to partner with the State of Minnesota, as well as community partners including the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), and Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) to evaluate recommended changes to public safety budgets and try to ensure that any budget cuts have limited impact on the public safety of Minnesota counties. We believe that the Council of State Governments is in a unique position to provide neutral, non-partisan data analysis and facilitation of discussions between the broad groups of public safety stakeholders that may be affected by the budget shortfalls next year. It is critical that data is evaluated to ensure that at least the base level services are afforded funding in the next biennium.

As stated in the governor's letter, we ask that this work be done as a supplement to the full Justice Reinvestment Initiative proposal currently envisioned as a broader, outcome-driven conversation on community safety and criminal justice system effectiveness. AMC and MACCAC strongly support bringing the Justice Reinvestment Initiative to the State of Minnesota and will continue to work on gaining support from state leaders.

Thank you for considering our request, and we look forward to working with CSG, the Department of Corrections, and other public safety stakeholders in these important conversations.

Sincerely,

Carli Stark, Public Safety Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties

Travis Gransee, President
Minnesota Association of
Community Corrections Act Counties

Jim Schneider, President
Minnesota Association of
County Probation Officers

Cc: Tim Walz, Governor
Paul Schnell, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Corrections