



May 11, 2022

Chair Mariani, Chair Limmer, and Members of the Conference Committee on Senate File 2673:

Thank you to both the House and Senate for prioritizing public safety throughout Minnesota by addressing critical needs of correctional supervision in our communities. As the organizations that provide supervision to the approximately 100,000 individuals on probation and supervised release across Minnesota, we are on the front lines of this work and recognize how challenging an issue it can be – both in the field and at the Capitol. **As you continue your work in conference committee on Senate File 2673, we urge your continued prioritization of increased investment and your consideration of the county proposal creating a more equitable funding formula which will lead to better outcomes and increased public safety for communities across the state.**

As you are keenly aware, the method of funding community supervision has created significant variations and inequities over the past 20 years. The lack of a uniform formula and statewide collaboration on policy have led to unpredictability in supervision practices. Counties and the state have been forced to choose programs and services based on the resources they have rather than what works best to create the highest level of public safety in each community. This variation means that recidivism rates, supervision outcomes, and access to treatment and supports vary dramatically by county and agency. The reality of these outcomes is that criminal justice-involved individuals fall through the cracks despite the tireless work and dedication of our staff. And when that occurs, the safety of our communities also suffers.

Over the past year, our organizations representing all 87 counties, along with the Judicial and Executive Branches, tribes, victims' advocacy organizations, treatment providers, and numerous other organizations, have worked toward finding long-term solutions to these supervision challenges. We collaborated, sought expertise from local experts in the field and collected and analyzed meaningful data. This historic partnership produced a recommended path forward creating statewide support for a sustainable, equitable, and effective community supervision system into the future. It is grounded in the belief that we need to both keep people safe in our community while holding them accountable and ensuring they have access to the services and evidence-based programming they need to be successful.

While we recognize there may be differences in policy positions in the broader Public Safety Omnibus bills, we have heard throughout this session that members agree on one thing: community supervision is critical to ensuring public safety and must be funded adequately and equitably. We appreciate the bipartisan support and urge you to hold true to those values and include both of your approaches in the final agreement: policy and funding.

**Again, thank you for the commitments shown through both the House and Senate positions to keep Minnesotans safe through investments in our community supervision system.** We, as well as all members of the collaborative agreement, are available at your convenience to answer questions and provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Todd Patzer, Lac qui Parle County  
*President, Association of Minnesota Counties*

Catherine Johnson, Hennepin County Department of Community  
Corrections and Rehabilitation Director  
*President, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties*

Jason Anderson, Itasca County Probation Director  
*President, Minnesota Association of County Probation  
Officers*

Commissioner Paul Schnell  
*Minnesota Department of Corrections*