



Minnesota Inter-County Association

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Association of
Minnesota
Counties

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April 6, 2021

Re: County Support of Corrections Funding

Dear Chair Limmer and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Inter County Association (MICA), Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO), and Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), we want to share our united support for increased community supervision funding. We appreciate the opportunity to outline how the funding included in **the delete all amendment to S.F. 970** will significantly impact county government, and we urge your support as you make critical budget decisions this year.

Minnesota's county-based probation systems have been underfunded for nearly two decades. The Community Corrections Act Subsidy has only been increased an average of 2/3 of a percent annually over the last 10 years. The County Probation Officer Reimbursement is currently at 29% of the statutorily mandated 50% reimbursement. This historical underfunding is just a symptom of the problem, which is that the probation funding mechanism in Minnesota is broken, resulting in inequitable funding from county to county. The working group proposed in the Governor's revised budget would be a first step in examining the funding system with input and ideas from stakeholders throughout the state. Counties have been advocating for an examination of this funding for years and we urge the legislature to support the workgroup. We encourage the Senate to consider including the working group language, ensuring representation of probation providers/counties proportional to the numbers of individuals or cases supervised, in future amendments to ensure that the system-wide funding change work continues.

We urge the Legislature to fully fund community supervision, and at minimum to fund a \$2.642 million base addition to the CCA subsidy and CPO reimbursement. We appreciate the Senate's inclusion of ongoing funding to community supervision. However, the proposed funding increase remains well below the need and we have strong concerns regarding the ability of counties to maintain services without ongoing funding. For reference, the Governor's supplemental budget request in 2020 suggested an appropriation increase of \$3.925 million for the CCA subsidy, with a \$4.911 million base appropriation increase in 2022 and 2023. For CPO reimbursement, the Governor had recommended a \$310,000 increase each year. We appreciate the Senate's appropriation of \$320,000 per year in CPO reimbursement and encourage the Chair to consider a proportional increase to the CCA subsidy. The 2020 request was deemed necessary to support counties before the pandemic, and is now critical funding reflective of the backlog of cases to be sentenced in the coming year, the majority of which will be to county-run probation systems.

If you have any questions or would like further information, feel free to reach out to AMC Public Safety Policy Analyst, Carli Stark at cstark@mncounties.org or 651-789-4335, or Nancy Haas, MACPO Legislative Counsel, at nhaas@messlerlikramer.com or 651-274-5166.

Sincerely,

Julie Ring, Executive Director
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Travis Gransee, President
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

Jim Schneider, President
Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers