



## SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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March 28, 2023

Representative Kelly Moller, Chair  
House Public Safety Finance and Policy  
509 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

Scott County supports increasing state appropriations for probation services and community supervision by \$83.2 million beginning in FY2024 and distributing those funds to all 87 counties through a new and more equitable formula that supports public safety and replaces the out-dated formula developed in 1996.

Currently, the Public Safety Finance Omnibus bill (HF2890 DE-1 Amendment) does not call for funding community supervision at that \$83.2 million level and does not include the related formula and policy changes proposed by counties. We strongly encourage the committee to adequately fund community supervision and include this new formula.

We need a funding model for community supervision that is transparent, needs-based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers and is our county's top legislative priority. Over the past 20 years, Scott County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the State. We have seen a significant increase in our probation case loads but due to the current formula, there has only been an increase in funding to Scott County of \$100,000 over that same 20 year period. Scott County provides nearly \$3 million from its levy each year to support community supervision in Scott County.

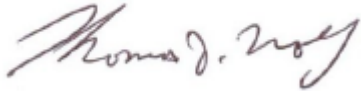
Over this past year, a representative county led work group collaborated to develop a data-driven formula that funds all probation systems through a single formula. They used real data, engaged the front line workers and achieved agreement from all three delivery systems (CCA, CPO and DOC) and 87 counties as well as the Department of Corrections.

This new formula for probation is so important to changing lives. We truly believe that if we all (counties and DOC) have the funds and resources to do supervision properly we can transform lives and significantly change community supervision moving forward. There will be exponential savings long term.

We appreciate the ongoing work of Committee Vice-Chair Representative Sandra Feist to strengthen the proposed formula brought forward by counties as reflected in her bill, HF1838. Our County is committed to continuing that work to ensure adequate funding and formula reforms are enacted this session.

Thank you, Chair Moller and committee members for your consideration as you develop your Omnibus Public Safety Finance bill, and thank you Vice-Chair Feist for your willingness to work with counties on this critical legislation for public safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Wolf".

Tom Wolf, Chair  
Commissioner District 2