



March 18, 2025

Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, the nation's largest grassroots organization dedicated to a fair and effective justice system, I urge you to support HF 1775. This bill will equip researchers and policymakers with the comprehensive data they need to evaluate and improve Minnesota's pretrial system.

A well-functioning pretrial system can enhance public safety while saving taxpayer dollars by ensuring that people are jailed based on risk rather than their ability to pay bail. However, significant gaps and inconsistencies in Minnesota's pretrial data make it difficult to know whether the system is producing outcomes that protect public safety in practice.

Minnesota lacks a centralized publicly available dataset on pretrial information, data collection practices vary widely across agencies, and restrictions on access to court system data have further limited transparency in the pretrial system. This has hindered researchers' ability to answer key pretrial questions, such as how detention varies by charge and what bail amounts and release conditions are being imposed.

HF 1775 addresses these data deficiencies by requiring consistent pretrial data collection across all counties, including information on bail and bond conditions, risk assessments, revocations, case outcomes, and demographic information. These insights can help policymakers and researchers identify the prevalence of unnecessary detentions, promoting fairness and saving taxpayer dollars. Additionally, this data can highlight instances of pretrial releases that have compromised public safety, allowing policymakers to adjust the system to better protect our communities going forward.

Minnesotans deserve a fair and effective pretrial system guided by evidence, not guesswork. HF 1775 gives lawmakers the data they need to assess and refine the system, and so on behalf of Americans for Prosperity, I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,

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