

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

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

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) 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.

As currently drafted, HF2890 DE-1 Amendment, the Public Safety Finance Omnibus bill increases annual appropriations by \$40 million and does not include related formula and policy changes proposed by counties. We appreciate the ongoing work of Committee Vice-Chair Representative Sandra Feist to strengthen the proposed formula brought forward by counties as reflected in HF1838. Our Association is committed to continuing that work to ensure adequate funding and formula reforms are enacted this session.

Minnesota is last in the nation in state funding for corrections, a reality that is also reflected in the inadequate funding levels for probation services and community corrections. Minnesota relies heavily on community supervision to protect the public and reduce crime by getting clients the help they need to be productive in their community. Proven, evidenced-based strategies for community supervision cannot be consistently and universally provided across the state without sufficient funding.

Creating a funding model for community supervision that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers is a top county public safety priority. Over this past year, a representative County Work Group collaborated to develop a data-driven formula that funds all probation systems through a single formula. The county's proposed formula approach is based on a capitated rate derived through analysis of the costs incurred to deliver effective, evidenced based supervision and services. We urge a new formula be adopted with supervision standards that enhance the continuity and efficacy of community supervision across all three delivery systems.

Thank you, Chair Moller and committee 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.



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association