

Dear Mr. Noor and Minnesota Legislators,

HF 2890

HF 2847

Today there are 745 people housed in the Minnesota Sex Offender Program that are deemed mentally ill and dangerous. Recently there was one client who assaulted a staff member in Moose Lake. As unfortunate and terrible that this assault was, there were 744 clients who did not assault a staff member. Assaults are actually a rare occurrence at MSOP, considering that this population is supposed to be a "dangerous" one. Everybody knows that there are too many people held in this facility in comparison to other states with the same systems.

Currently the Moose Lake facility is severely short staffed, which makes the facility a more dangerous place to work and deters job seekers from applying for employment in the facility. If efforts were taken to downsize the population, the population could be better managed by the staff, and treatment could be focused on those that really need it, as well as freeing up prison space.

These clients have not been evaluated by qualified assessors, which is the main reason that Minnesota has more civilly committed persons than every other state. Minnesota has a good reputation for rehabilitation in other medical areas of care. Why are we failing in this capacity and why are we not requiring our professionals to do better?

The system that is in place now has damaged so many families across the state. As a mother of one of those men in this facility, it is very hard for me to see the grooming that is going on with the trans movement and the sex education in the schools, while these people are been held in this facility for their entire lives, for the same type of behavior. Some of these men have been incarcerated since they were teenagers, for having sex with teenagers and now they are labeled as pedophiles who are mentally ill! From what I have learned and In my opinion, most of the people in MSOP, are no more dangerous than the drag queen who reads books to children, or the teacher who insists on disclosing their personal preferences in the class room.

As the standards for incarceration, education and acceptance are changing so should the standards for Civil Commitment change as well.

Thank you for your service and consideration.

Sincerely

Merry Schoon