

March 17, 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 H.F. 1838 – DE1-Amendment, authored by Representative Sandra Feist, to increase state appropriations for community supervision by \$83.2 million beginning in FY2024.

Minnesota is last in the nation in state funding for corrections. This reality 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. These evidenced-based strategies for a community supervision system cannot be consistently and universally provided across the state without sufficient funding. We appreciate Representative Feist's leadership on this critical public safety and human issue.

Counties also urge adoption of the new, more equitable funding formula for community supervision developed by counties, in consultation with the Department of Corrections, by adopting H.F. 1838 – DE1 Amendment.

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 for 2023. 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. This formula is based on a capitated rate derived through analysis of the cost incurred to deliver effective, evidenced based supervision and services. The DE1 amendment reflects those recommendations, and supports supervision standards that will further enhance the continuity and efficacy of community supervision across all three delivery systems.

These community supervision funding formulas have been the focus of county efforts for years. Under H.F. 1838, all three probation delivery systems are retained, and appropriations are set at a level needed to ensure more equitable and sustainable funding. We strongly urge the legislature to adopt HF1838.

We again thank Representative Feist and co-authors, and we stand ready to work with legislators and stakeholders to refine this legislation as needed toward its final passage.



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association