

m MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDS
FOR CORRECTIONS

April 6, 2021

Dear Chair Becker-Finn,

Thank you for including an important data practices change for the Office of the Ombuds for Corrections in House File 1030, making client identification information private until an investigation is closed (Article 6, Section 12).

As you know, the Office of the Ombuds for Corrections is responsible for investigating complaints regarding the actions of Minnesota corrections agencies. In current law, the identity of individuals making complaints is public data. This is contrary to national standards for ombudsperson confidentiality and raises concerns about the willingness of individuals to file complaints, particularly while a matter is still under investigation. Making this data private during the course of an investigation is critical to protect the integrity of the investigation, to keep it from being compromised and instill confidence in this unique situation where many complainants are subject to the complete care and control of the subjects of their complaint.

Sincerely,



Mark Haase
Ombudsperson for Corrections