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May 11, 2021

Senator Warren Limmer  
3221 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Carlos Mariani  
479 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Andrew Mathews  
2105 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Jamie Becker-Finn  
559 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Mark Johnson  
3111 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Kelly Moller  
569 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen  
3207 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Cedrick Frazier  
439 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Ron Latz  
2215 Minnesota Senate Bldg.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Representative Tim Miller  
329 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Judiciary Conference Committee Conferees,

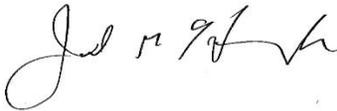
As former Chief Law Enforcement Officers who have spent our careers in policing supporting victims and victim advocacy programs, we write to express our support for the criminal sexual conduct reforms championed by Representative Moller, Representative O'Neill, and Senator Senjem this session. The Denied Justice series in the Star Tribune in 2018 and a recent Minnesota Supreme Court decision have laid bare the inadequacies in our laws resulting in injustice related to how the State of Minnesota responds to criminal sexual conduct. We applaud both the House and Senate for including these important reforms in their Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus bills.

Minnesotans from across our great state cried out for justice and the legislature has responded. The failures in our current law related to criminal sexual conduct were studied extensively by a team of experts and community members of the Criminal Sexual Conduct Statutory Reform Working Group. The Working Group presented recommendations for policy language after hundreds of hours of thoughtful review, debate, and stakeholder engagement. These experts carefully crafted a bipartisan set of solutions to address the substantial gaps in Minnesota's criminal sexual conduct statutory framework to better serve victim survivors. The reforms put forth by the Working Group are a priority of the Walz-Flanagan administration.

Countless victim survivors have shared their pain at the lack of justice in our system with both the executive branch and during many legislative hearings. We thank them for their willingness to come forward and demand the state do better in its response. In July 2019, for the first time in recent history, a sitting Governor and Lt. Governor in Minnesota convened a listening session to hear directly from survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their advocates. As a result of the listening session, the victim coalitions in Minnesota established the Survivor Advisory Group which regularly meets with the Governor's office and state agencies to make recommendations for policy changes. While we continue to reflect and act on changes within our own agencies to improve our responses to victim survivors, we also stand with those calling for legislative changes in this moment.

We greatly appreciate both the House and the Senate for including the recommendation of the Criminal Sexual Conduct Reform Working Group and the myriad victim survivors who have come forward to recount their stories of trauma and revictimization by a system that has failed to serve them. The Departments of Public Safety and Corrections stand ready to work with you on these critical initiatives toward a safer and equitable Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Harrington".

John Harrington  
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Schnell".

Paul Schnell  
Commissioner, Department of Corrections