

Re: House File 2432 – Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus

Dear Members of the Conference Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety,

On behalf of the Association of Minnesota Counties, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful work on HF2432, the Judiciary and Public Safety Policy and Finance Bill. The time and thoughtful considerations you have invested in shaping this legislation despite the difficult budgetary constraints is evident, and we are grateful for the legislature's leadership on critical issues impacting public safety and the justice system across Minnesota.

As you work to reconcile differences between the House and Senate positions, we respectfully urge you to support the following provisions that are of particular significance to our members:

Support for a Two-Year Delay in the Sunset of Supervision Fees

We appreciate the recognition that counties need adequate time to plan for the financial and operational implications of any changes to the current supervision fee structure. Specifically, while the community supervision formula to support these duties remains underfunded by the state. The two-year delay in the sunset provides the necessary runway for thoughtful policy design while the state works to fully fund the community supervision formula.

Concerns About Proration of Interstate Compact Costs to Counties

We are concerned about language that shifts financial responsibility for the interstate compact for adult offender supervision onto counties. The compact is a state-level function that ensures the safe and legal movement of individuals under supervision across state lines. Cost proration to counties, without funding to offset the cut in funding to counties and corresponding authority or oversight of the compact unit, is an inequitable approach that could undermine both fiscal accountability and supervision outcomes.

Preservation of State Funding for the Sentencing to Service (STS) Program

The STS program is a valued tool for counties, providing restorative justice opportunities and community benefit while holding individuals accountable. We urge the committee to prioritize and preserve the state's investment in this program to ensure it remains available statewide.

We thank you again for your commitment to improving Minnesota's public safety and justice systems. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can be of further assistance as the conference committee deliberates.

Sincerely,

Emilio Lamba

Emilio Lamba
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