

Yingya Vang

From: Jenny Nash
Sent: Saturday, July 31, 2021 6:50 AM
To: Yingya Vang; Patrick McQuillan
Subject: Fwd: Testimony from MSOP Client

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Merry Trelstad <mertrel@yahoo.com>
Date: July 30, 2021 at 8:49:05 PM CDT
To: Jenny Nash <Jenny.Nash@house.mn>
Subject: Testimony from MSOP Client

This is a written testimony for the MSOP update informational hearing on August 2, 2021.

Please read at the hearing.

Normally Americans accused of a crime are presumed innocent until proven guilty, and every element of every offense must be proven beyond a reasonable doubt before anyone is punished for a crime. But Minnesota Law makers decided to create the SDP/SPP act which indefinitely incarcerated hundreds of men and women without convicting them of a crime, in fact 12% of the population in MSOP has no criminal record at all.

OCEAN and the End MSOP coalition implores state legislators to urge governor Tim Walz to call a special session to repeal the SDP/SPP act. In addition we urge you to come to the Moose Lake facility, and learn first hand what is happening. We encourage you to speak with those within the OCEAN community.

For every one million people that live in MN, 131 are held in preventative detention before they are dead. African Americans and gay men are twice as likely to get civilly committed in Minnesota. On average there is a death in MSOP every 40 to 60 days. There have been more deaths in the last five years, than there were the first twenty. Each individual is 6 times more likely to die, than be released. Recently some juvenile offenders have been released, however there are still about 55 juvenile offenders still committed.

This system is a massive waste of taxpayer money. The same year that Minnesota cut it's funding for sexual violence prevention programs by 3.6 million per year, it spent 26 million dollars of taxpayer money to detain 235 people to preventive detention facilities, even though this does nothing to lower crime rates. Housing one person in preventative detention, at a cost of \$144,000.00 per year, is 3 times the cost of detaining an inmate.

When it comes to the SDP/SPP act, law makers have failed to protect Minnesotans. James Berg, the MSOP deputy director admitted that the program cannot be completed. Almost 90 men have died trying. In 1994, just 8 days before the state primary, the governor called for a special session, and in just 97 minutes the legislation passed the SDP/SPP act. This law can be changed as quickly as it was created.

The harm to the residents and their families has been great. Many have been locked up in MSOP since childhood, while others are well past the age of being a danger to society.

Again we urge to come and speak with the individuals directly affected, in order to understand what is really going on at MSOP, and how lives and money are being wasted.

Thank-you
Daniel A. Wilson
OCEAN co-founder

*"If we don't stand up for others' given rights, we're in Jeopardy of loosing
our own"
Merry rts.*