



March 17, 2024

Via E-Mail Delivery

Representative Kelly Moller, Co-Chair
5th Floor Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Representative Paul Novotny, Co-Chair
2nd Floor Centennial Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer support for HF 1775 (Pinto). I am writing on behalf of the Justice Action Network (JAN), the nation's largest bipartisan organization that advocates for improvements to our criminal justice system. JAN has worked in states across the country and at the federal level, and has been active in Minnesota since 2016.

As lawmakers, you are tasked every day with the critical work of examining the actualities of the state's justice system against its intended purpose. At present, the state does not collect or report on pretrial data that may allow you—as well as justice practitioners, advocates, and researchers—the tools to examine it in full; in absence of such data, policy decisions in the pretrial space may not accurately represent your constituents, may not protect constitutional rights, and may not enhance public safety. These decisions are too critical to be based on limited or anecdotal experience.

As a bipartisan organization, we wish to emphasize that pretrial data collection has become a priority for red, blue, and purple states alike in recent years; without it, there is no way to accurately assess a system's stress points, adherence to best practices, and ensure appropriate uses of resources. Advancing HF 1775 is a decision that will improve the quality of pretrial policy for years to come.

Please feel free to contact our organization's government relations representative, Chas Anderson at chas@parkstreetpublic.com, with any questions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenny Catchings
State Policy Manager, Justice Action Network

C: Representative Pinto