



# PINE COUNTY PROBATION

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March 13th, 2023

## Chair & Members:

I have been a restorative justice practitioner for over 25 years, and co-developed two RJ programs in Pine County. Our program is the centerpiece of our transformative juvenile justice work called Project Rise, which won the 2018 Capstone of the Year Award by Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. Restorative justice works. Dr. Mark Umbreit, a RJ pioneer, has said it is the "heart work". It is the ability to dig deeper with kids and families, while allowing those who have been harmed a seat at the table and offers victims a voice to be a part of the solution. The Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court came up to talk with a few years ago, and she asked, "how can we replicate this statewide?" This Bill would allow for that. Work that changes lives takes time and effort. RJ allows for that. It is evidence-based, and it has been tried internationally. Our program in Pine County has a 90% rate of completers who do not come back in the juvenile justice system after completion of the program.

I fully support this Bill and understand the tremendous lifelong value that RJ has in the lives of offenders, victims, and practitioners.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Fawcett", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Respectfully,

Terry Fawcett

Pine County Probation Director

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