



March 15, 2023

***Sent via Email**

The Honorable Representative Moller, Chair
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
509 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for HF 1838 – increased funding for community supervision services and implementation of a new funding formula

Dear Chair Moller and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for hearing [HF 1838](#) and to Representative Feist for authoring the bill. Olmsted County urges your support for this legislation to increase funding for community supervision services and implement a new funding formula. This is a top legislative priority for Olmsted County this session and we strongly urge your support.

Minnesota's justice system is largely a state responsibility that relies heavily on local community supervision and alternatives to imprisonment. Research shows that effective, evidence-based community supervision results in lower rates of reoffending than incarceration. Lower rates of reoffending lowers costs for courts, correctional institutions, and other public programs. These outcomes can only be achieved if state funding is sufficient to both supervise sentenced individuals and provide the unique supports each individual needs to succeed in the community.

Minnesota counties provide about 80% of the probation and supervised release services in the state and the Department of Corrections (DOC) provides 20%. Olmsted County is a Community Corrections Act (CCA) county, one of the three delivery systems, which means the county provides community supervision services with funding from a state subsidy and county tax dollars. Olmsted County partners with Dodge County to provide these services. Community supervision services in Dodge and Olmsted Counties are currently funded with 22.5% state grant and subsidy funding and 77.5% county tax dollars.

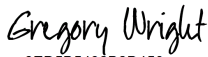
When the Community Corrections Act was established, the legislature intended a 50/50 cost share between CCA counties and the state. Olmsted County is funded well below that mark at 22.5% and counties across the state are in the same position. The CCA subsidy has only

increased by an average of less than 1% over the last decade, which has not kept up with inflationary costs. The lack of state funding has required counties to increase property tax levies to ensure community supervision needs are met. This disproportionately impacts smaller communities that have access to fewer resources.

The Association of Minnesota Counties recently established a Community Supervision Workgroup to create a funding formula to simplify the community supervision system and create one method of funding for all counties. All three delivery systems support the formula changes and counties across the state urge the Legislature to adopt this revised community supervision funding formula as well as an increase in state funding to ensure that all communities in Minnesota have adequate capacity to deliver effective and evidence-based community supervision services. These reform efforts are vitally important to ensure future systems are adequately funded and focused on improving outcomes related to reoffending, incarceration, supervision caseloads, and overall community safety.

Olmsted County respectfully asks for your support for HF 1838 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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