



February 24th, 2026

Representative Paul Novotny, Chair
House Public Safety Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
2nd Floor, Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Novotny and Committee Members,

Subject: Statement in support of HF 3496

I am David Zimmer, Public Safety Policy Fellow with Center of the American Experiment, a position I have held for the past four years following a 33-year career as a peace officer with the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office.

I am writing in support of HF 3496 which seeks to ensure that all court ordered restitution must be paid in full before an individual on supervision is eligible for supervision abatement status as part of the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA).

Supervision abatement is defined by the MRRA and by the Department of Corrections (DOC) as a shortened period of community supervision that is **earned** by completing the goals outlined in the individual’s supervision plan. The MRRA also stresses the **incentive** aspect of both supervision abatement and the earned incentive early release program.

If individuals on supervised release are not obligated to pay their court ordered restitution before becoming eligible for supervision abatement, the **incentive** that is a cornerstone of the MRRA is missing. If an individual has failed to pay their court ordered restitution, they have also failed to **earn** enrollment in supervision abatement.

In its 2024 annual report on probation and supervised release outcomes the DOC reported that in 2023 the courts had closed 1,995 cases in which restitution had been ordered. Just 35.8% of the cases were paid in full as ordered by the court, and in 45.8% of the cases no restitution at all was paid.

Number of Adult Felony Cases Closed in 2023 with Restitution Ordered	State-Wide Totals	% of Total Number of Cases Closed with Restitution Ordered
Total Number of Cases Closed with Restitution Ordered	1,995	100%
Total Number Closed With Restitution Paid In Full	715	35.8%
Closed With Some Restitution Paid	362	18.1%
Closed With \$0 Restitution Paid ⁶	913	45.8%



With this dismal record of adherence to court ordered restitution, it becomes all the more important that the MRRA provide clear incentive for individuals to pay their court ordered restitution. Failure by this body to add this reasonable safeguard would represent misfeasance, by causing further harm to victims whom the court has already determined were due restitution.

Supporting HF 3496 supports the cornerstone of the MRRA - incentivized and earned credit for early release and supervision abatement.

Sincerely

David P. Zimmer

David Zimmer
Public Safety Policy Fellow