

February 8, 2023

Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee:

On behalf of NAMI Minnesota, we are writing in support of HF 2282. Over 90% of the people incarcerated in our state prisons will reenter their community. People exiting incarceration are typically most vulnerable to violating their probation shortly after they are released. Providing support and stability for people leaving incarceration is an essential part of safety and wellness in our communities. We support the investments to expand work release in Minnesota in this bill. Not only is employment important for formerly incarcerated people to be successful in the community, but it is very often a significant part of people with mental illnesses' recovery. We know that incarceration has a deep impact on people's mental health as well as families and children. Employment is another way to mitigate that harm by providing people with connections to their communities, income to support the individuals and their families, and the stability and confidence to work on their recovery. We urge your support of HF 2282.

Sincerely,

Sue Abderholden, MPH
Executive Director

Elliot Butay
Senior Policy Coordinator