

Dear Member of the Public Safety Committee,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRRA), which became effective on August 1, 2023, yet has still not been implemented. The delay in rolling out this critical program raises serious questions about the commitment to rehabilitation and justice in our state.

As originally designed, the MRRRA was meant to include all individuals except those serving life sentences, providing a structured pathway to rehabilitation while also reducing recidivism. However, current proposals seek to drastically limit eligibility and expand exclusions for Earned Incentive Release Credits. Additionally, there is a discussion about giving the Commissioner of Corrections the authority to revoke earned credits at their discretion. This lack of clearly defined criteria creates a subjective system that could unjustly exclude certain individuals based on arbitrary decisions rather than measurable progress.

Using the MRRRA as intended is not only a matter of fairness but also a matter of public safety and fiscal responsibility. The program helps to:

- **Reduce recidivism** by incentivizing rehabilitation, ultimately making communities safer.
- **Save taxpayer money** by reducing incarceration costs.
- **Fund victim services and rehabilitation programs**—a benefit that should be universally supported.

Why would we move away from a program that saves money, enhances safety, and funds victims and programming? Restricting MRRRA's reach undermines its very purpose.

Furthermore, the retroactive proposal must be taken more seriously to ensure fairness and equality for all eligible individuals. As currently written, much of the language is nebulous and subjective, lacking clear, objective criteria. Justice cannot be administered based on personal biases or selective preferences. If rehabilitation is truly the goal, policies must be applied consistently and equitably to all who demonstrate their commitment to change.

I urge you to support the full and fair implementation of the MRRRA, including a serious review of the retroactive proposal to ensure justice for all. The policies must not be vague or discretionary in a way that alienates certain offenders while favoring others. Minnesota has an opportunity to set a precedent for a justice system that prioritizes rehabilitation over perpetual punishment. Let's not squander it.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Shelley Pieper-Reynolds