

Sent Via Email

April 5, 2022

Representative Carlos Mariani, Chair
House Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Committee
479 State Office Building
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Mariani and Committee Members:

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) represents fifteen of Minnesota's larger and faster growing counties, including four suburban and eleven Greater Minnesota counties. Our member counties include participants of each of the three community supervision models.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of selected provisions of HF4608 DE2 Amendment.

MICA supports Article 7 – Community Supervision Reform including providing a sustainable level of funding that is allocated through a single, equitable formula to all 87 counties and accompanied by a network of best-practice supports.

State General Fund spending for community supervision is well below fifty percent of costs, and far below what is needed to ensure comprehensive, evidence-based supervision practices statewide. In 2020, while Minnesota spent 2.5% of its General Fund on corrections, other states averaged 6.5%. When state funding increases have occurred, they have typically favored increases for prisons even though Minnesota imprisons fewer individuals per capita than most states and assigns more individuals to community supervision.

Adequate funding for community supervision supports a safer Minnesota. Public safety is strengthened when probation staff have the time, training, and tools demonstrated to change criminal behavior, stop revictimization, and reduce recidivism.

Enacting full funding for community supervision that is allocated across a single, equitable formula is a key county priority for 2002.

Thank you for including this critical funding and program reform in your supplemental budget recommendations.

Sincerely,



Matt Massman, *Executive Director*
Minnesota Inter-County Association

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