



April 17, 2023

RE: County Comments on H.F. 2890

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC), Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), and Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) collectively represent all 87 counties in Minnesota which are responsible for the supervision of 80% of the people on probation in the state.

We strongly support the inclusion of the community supervision appropriations and funding formula policy in H.F. 2890.

While we are grateful for the significant increase, counties have been working for almost three years on the original proposal from H.F. 1838 to transform the probation system through a new formula and a data-based appropriation request of approximately \$83 million per year. **Counties respectfully urge your committee and other members of the Legislature to fully fund our request.**

The AMC Community Supervision Workgroup, along with partner organizations, put in hundreds of hours of work and significant financial support to create transparent, needs based, and equitable funding among county and state supervision providers. The policy recommendations apply one method of funding for all counties, regardless of delivery system while retaining the local choice of three probation delivery systems.

Equally important, the bill creates the Community Supervision Advisory Committee which will ensure that all counties are able to provide evidence-based practices through measures such as the development of a training and quality assurance program. The funding and policy provisions in the bill are intended to work in concert to ensure Minnesota is seeing the best outcomes for clients and communities.

Every county in Minnesota has passed a resolution in support of a new funding formula. Please ensure that your appropriation not only supports public safety in the short-term, but also fixes the funding formula to support all counties into the future and ensure the sustainability of our system.

Sincerely,

Julie Ring, Executive Director
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Luke Johnson, Chair
Minnesota Rural Counties

Michael Schommer, President
Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers

Tami Jo Lieberg, President
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties

April 19, 2023
St. Paul

To: House Ways and Means Committee

Dear members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of the Omnibus bill SF2909. This bill includes common sense gun safety reforms that will make all of us safer.

The data documenting gun violence are overwhelming. No other country has the excessive sheer number of guns, nor the excessive resulting violence and death. Recurring mass shootings are an ongoing reminder that this violence continues on an almost daily basis; we have had more mass shooting events in 2023 than days in this new year! It is imperative that we take action to mitigate this death and violence with the legislation currently under your review.

To be clear, I support gun rights for those owners following appropriate registration, transfer, and storage of guns. I support hunters – our family farm, as part of a transaction with Pheasants Forever and the DNR, is now part of a WMA, available to all hunters to use and enjoy. These bills do not take away rights, in my view, but support reform that the majority of gun owners support. Those who criticize these bills often employ the arguments of a “slippery slope” fallacy; in fact, these bills will lead to improved safety and better perception of gun owners. Gun rights groups typically will “cherry-pick” studies that support their argument, when in fact the majority of studies have found positive outcomes from implementation of legislation like these bills.

My wife and I have a young granddaughter, and we think often of the need to ensure her future safety.

Thanks for all you do to lead Minnesota to be an example of responsible gun ownership and improved public safety.

Regards,
Pete Steinhagen
St. Paul, MN



April 18, 2023

Chair Liz Olson
Minnesota House of Representatives
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF2890 (Public Safety Bill)

Dear Chair Olson:

We are writing to you today regarding Article 15 of HF2890 which is language that comprehensively rewrites Minnesota Chapter 403 governing the 911 Emergency Communications System.

Our industries agree that Chapter 403 is in need of a legislative update. However, Chapter 403 contains highly technical language, and it should go without saying that the language governing the operation of the 911 emergency communications network used by all Minnesotans to contact police, fire, and emergency medical assistance should not be revised in haste and must be done carefully and in cooperation with all stakeholders. We must get this right.

We have been working on the policy language in this bill with the Department of Public Safety (DPS). On March 16, 2023, the day after the House File and companion (2890) was introduced, our two associations along with several of our members — the companies that will be responsible for implementing these changes and delivering 911 calls from our customers to emergency first responders — met for several hours with DPS and provided a long list of technological concerns and questions we have about the proposed 911 policy language. Since then, we, along with DPS, have continued to work on the language with our technical experts but there is much more work to be done.

Please be assured that the members of our associations are fully committed to continuing to work with DPS to get the language right. However, at this point in the legislative session, we would strongly suggest that 911 policy changes in the DPS budget bill be resolved by all of the stakeholders in the interim to ensure that changes made to Chapter 403 are technically feasible and sound. This additional time will also permit the appropriate policy committees to give full consideration to the proposed changes during the 2024 legislative session.

Sincerely,

MINNESOTA CABLE COMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Anna Boroff, Executive Director

MINNESOTA TELECOM ALLIANCE

Brent Christensen, President and CEO



April 18, 2023

The Honorable Liz Olson
479 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Olson and Members of the Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing to express my support for the House Judiciary and Civil Law omnibus (HF 1580) and my gratitude to Chair Becker-Finn and the other members of the House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee for including key budget priorities of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights.

HF 1580 recognizes the importance of civil rights enforcement and ending discrimination.

As the state's civil rights enforcement agency, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights' (MDHR) mission is to help ensure that Minnesotans can lead lives of dignity, free from discrimination. Carrying out that mission takes support, investment, and resources. That's what HF 1580 does. This letter highlights budget priorities, all of which are reflected in the Governor and Lt. Governor's budget.

Transformational Budget

- **Increasing the Department's Investigative Capacity**
Minnesotans deserve a strong civil rights agency to turn to if they experience discrimination. In recent years, MDHR has been consistently underfunded to fulfill its statutory duties under the Minnesota Human Rights Act. In the 1970s, MDHR employed a staff of approximately 100; today, our agency has fewer than 50 employees. This \$624,000 investment in fiscal year 2024, and \$625,000 in fiscal year 2025, allows MDHR to hire additional investigators to decrease caseloads so investigations can be done as effectively and efficiently as possible.
- **Establishing a Settlement Monitoring and Enforcement Team**
For MDHR to effectively fulfill its civil rights enforcement goals, it is crucial to build capacity for meaningful oversight of settled discrimination cases, helping to ensure discrimination does not reoccur. Comprehensive oversight of MDHR's settlement agreements and consent decrees will help ensure the terms of the agreements are achieved.
- **Strengthening the Department's Enforcement Capabilities in State Contracting**
Minnesota thrives when state investments are used to intentionally undo racial and gender inequities, which is why MDHR works with more than 3,500 state contractors to ensure men and women are compensated equally for equal work and that contractors are making good faith efforts towards their

workforce goals. This investment of \$125,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$125,000 in fiscal year 2025 will provide MDHR with needed resources to help support strategic compliance for state contacting.

- **Providing Outreach and Education**

Nonprofits, local governments, law enforcement, schools, and businesses all have a role to play in creating safe and welcoming spaces for Minnesotans. One core responsibility for the Department is to conduct statewide education, outreach, and engagement. This investment of \$125,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$125,000 in fiscal year 2025 allows MDHR to educate more Minnesotans about their civil rights and work with organizations, community members, schools, landlords, employers, and other stakeholders to prevent discrimination from occurring.

- **Strengthening Process Improvement Team**

The process improvement team is the backbone of MDHR. This team's work standardizes the agency's operations, and manages and update MDHR's entire database, which almost every employee uses on a daily basis. This investment of \$125,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$125,000 in fiscal year 2025 will enable the process improvement team to help our agency's work and database work more efficiently and effectively, which means our agency will be better able to deliver procedural justice to Minnesotans.

Strengthening the Minnesota Department of Human Rights

- **Operating Adjustment**

To keep up with the rising cost of employee compensation, IT services, and other direct operating costs, MDHR is requesting an operating adjustment of \$599,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$1,125,000 in fiscal year 2025.

- **Gathering and Reporting Hate and Discrimination Incidents**

To take actionable steps to address acts of bias or hate, Minnesota needs better data. This \$395,000 investment in fiscal year 2024, and \$250,000 in fiscal year 2025, allows MDHR to track, analyze, and report on bias and hate incidents, as well as collaborate with community-based groups who are doing their own data collection. This investment will help to generate more robust qualitative and aggregate quantitative data from across Minnesota.

- **Supporting Volunteer Mediators**

More Minnesotans are using mediation to resolve their discrimination cases because mediation provides a meaningful way for both parties to reach an agreement and it's cost-effective for parties. This one-time investment allocates \$20,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$20,000 in fiscal year 2025 to meet this growing demand by providing stipends to mediators. This will support a growing roster of trained and skilled mediators who help resolve discrimination complaints before they go to a full investigation.

- **Ensuring Housing is Free from Discrimination**

We hope to continue to work with you on prohibiting discrimination based on public assistance status. Minnesotans deserve housing that is free from discrimination. That is why the One Minnesota Budget invests in the Minnesota Department of Human Rights to work with Minnesota Housing to enforce a

policy proposal that prohibits source of income discrimination against Minnesotans who access financial support, including, federal housing choice vouchers, to help afford housing.

Thank you for making the investments to strengthen civil rights protections for Minnesotans. The House Judiciary and Civil Law omnibus meets this moment when racism, transphobia, ableism, antisemitism, sexual harassment, and so many other forms of discrimination continue to persist across Minnesota.

Please feel free to contact me or Nico Bauer (nico.bauer@state.mn.us), MDHR's Government Relations Director, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Lucero', with a small cross-like mark at the end of the signature.

Rebecca Lucero
Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Human Rights

Minnesota House of Representatives
HF 2890 Omnibus Hearing
April 18th, 2023

On behalf of myself and the DC Project Minnesota Delegates I write to you regarding HF 2890 Omnibus Bill to express why we do not support this bill.

I am deeply concerned with the proposed legislation regarding red flag confiscation and universal background checks. As a survivor of domestic violence and having grown up in a community of survivors of domestic violence, volunteering at a shelter for battered women in my youth, I am well aware of the seriousness of violent tendencies of abusers. There are no lengths they will not go to, to maintain control. My ex-boyfriend contacted my employer and the Minnesota Board of Nursing in attempts to strip me of my employment, license, and livelihood. Without any hesitation the proposed Red Flag Confiscation would most certainly give him a means to strip me of my ability to protect myself and my family from him as well. Law makers would like us to believe this bill would protect us when the reality it is doing the opposite and placing victims further at risk. Taking this one step further, by trade I am a registered nurse. I had the privilege of working on a mental health unit in Hibbing, MN while in college and the reality is we already have a means, which may be grossly under utilized due to funding and resources, which would offer a "cooling off period" for people who may be a threat to themselves or others under a 72 hour hold. Time and time again I have seen people who are struggling with their mental health turned away as there are no beds available in Minnesota in facilities capable of caring for them. Knowing > 60% of gun violence is a result of suicides - most of which are veteran and first responders, the issue is not firearms. It is our state failing to provide adequate funding and resources for mental health chronic and acute conditions. Organizations like Walk the Talk America are working to address the negative stigma around suicide. They are collaborating with gun manufacturers, retail outlets, and instructor to address the mental health crisis. You can throw statistics around to justify your reasoning but the reality is, gun owners, like you want to see this number reduced. But as a registered nurse I am trained to focus on the root cause - when looking for a cause of a problem keep asking why I until you can't any longer. Your first question why are they using a firearm - simple it is the most effective means to end your life. The next question as a government you should be asking is why are they wanting a sure fire way to end their lives. It does not stop with the how - it is the why's you need to focus on.

The next concern I would like to address is the matter of UBC- Universal Background Checks. First and foremost, historically, there has never been government mandated registration that did not result in confiscation. Ever. This is highly alarming to me as a citizen of the United States of America, my right to keep and bears arms, is one of many great freedoms that sets our country apart from other nations. As a firearms instructor in the state of Minnesota I understand the gravity of keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals. Under the Minnesota Citizens Personal Protection Act, it is clearly outlined that we need to discuss with our students about their obligation to keep control of their firearms and to secure them to prevent misuse or theft. Criminals do not seek out this

training, they do not apply for a permit to purchase, and they certainly do not apply for a permit to carry. Universal background checks would have no effect on criminals. Currently, in Minnesota, to purchase a firearm from a retail store by a federally licensed firearm retailer, including retail sales at gun shows, a National Instant Criminal Background Checks System is completed. the problem with UBC is that is simply is unenforceable. There are hundreds of millions of privately-owned firearms. The state of Minnesota cannot control the flow of private sales. As a responsible gun owner and firearms instructor I strive to ensure other gun owners understand the legal and moral obligations they have to keep firearms out of the hands of ineligible parties. This may mean taking an extra step in a private sale to view a permit to purchase or a permit to carry identification. This does not require government oversight. UBC has not shown any evidence of reducing violent crimes, it merely would add another step or monetary cost to law abiding citizens. We see communities like Minneapolis which have banned FFL's from doing business locally. This limits access to residents of local minority communities dependent on public transportation. Further, the burden of liability placed on FFLs has not been considered. The NICS system is not designed to handle an uptick of 40% or more checks and will cause delay in eligible resident's completion purchases of their firearms - their lives may literally depend on it.

Law abiding citizens are not the criminals as propaganda and social media would like you to believe. We are mothers, sisters, and daughters. We are members of local congregations, mosques, and synagogues. We are nurses, teachers, and housewives. We must insist that you not make us victims, the reality is we are our own first responders. When seconds matter, often police are minutes, if not hours away in rural Minnesota. This is why we do not support HF 2890. Please vote No. Our lives may depend on it.

Sincerely,

JoAnne Max
Minnesota State Director of the DC Project
<http://Dcproject.info>
(218) 360-9756

April 18, 2023

Representative Liz Olson
Chair, Ways and Means Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
479 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Olson:

I am writing to express support for Chair Kelly Moller's bill, House File 2890, the public safety omnibus budget bill. House File 2890 represents a historic investment in Minnesota's corrections system along with leadership on critical criminal justice reform measures. The Department of Corrections shares the goal of creating a safer Minnesota and investing in what works. House File 2890 has important investments that will improve our public safety and correctional systems. There are also a few areas where we hope to partner in conference committee to address key priorities not funded in this bill.

Through the leadership of Chair Moller, the investments in House File 2890 recognize that public safety cannot be achieved through enforcement and prosecution only. The bill provides a range of tools and resources for community, local, and state government collaboration to provide effective accountability, support, and improve outcomes. It provides the DOC with critically needed base funding, while also investing in person-centered and proven transformational services to ensure successful community reintegration. Additionally, House File 2890 provides a framework for responsibly funding correctional supervision across Minnesota to better meet the needs of the 88,000 individuals subject to probation, parole, or supervised release supervision.

In particular, I am grateful that the bill:

- Includes the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRA) which requires personalized assessments and rehabilitation plans for incarcerated individuals, along with the opportunity for earned incentivized release and supervision abatement after the meaningful engagement in rehabilitative programming and demonstrates changes in criminal thinking and identity. The MRRA reinvests savings from program success into victim support services, community supervision related intervention services, crime prevention programs, and returns 25% to the general fund.
- Establishes a Clemency Review Board to expand the accessibility and availability of pardon application review to more Minnesotans.
- Funds Minnesota's correctional supervision delivery systems to address historic inequities, including funding for Tribal Governments to better support or provide supervision to their members.
- Provides body-worn cameras for corrections officers to ensure safety and transparency on behalf of department staff and the incarcerated population.

- Increases the DOC's capacity to provide transformational education to those who are incarcerated – a key to rehabilitation, job attainment, personal transformation, and increased public safety.
- Invests in housing stability programs for those who are reentering our communities after serving time in prison, reducing the rate of homelessness in Minnesota.
- Expands 24-hour nursing to all DOC facilities to provide Constitutionally mandated healthcare to those who are under the care of the state while in prison.
- Significantly reduces the cost of phone calls to and from those who are incarcerated.
- Meaningfully invests in community sex offender treatment – the first significant increase since 2007.
- Creates an Indeterminate Sentence Review Board, a five-member board to replace the sole discretion of the commissioner of corrections on life sentence parole decisions.

The investments above will allow the DOC to create more successful public safety outcomes, and I am grateful for their inclusion in your bill. As the budget process moves forward, the DOC requests the opportunity to work further with you and your colleagues on other critical investments in the Governor's budget recommendation for the Department of Corrections including:

- Full funding for the Statewide Public Safety Data Infrastructure to replace the critically antiquated DOC records management and sentence administration system with a modern and secure data management and analysis system that also creates a statewide hub of correctional supervision data to be shared across all counties and system partners. To be able to effectively implement data-driven policy and processes, including those requested routinely by the Legislature, and create safer outcomes inside prisons as well as in our communities, the state must invest in modernizing these systems over the coming years.
- Funding the creation of a Family Support Unit at the DOC to strengthen family ties more strategically and meaningfully during incarceration, an evidence-based solution to reduce the risk of reoffending. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Investing in recruitment, retention, and staff wellness to help address chronic staffing shortages that impact the safety of all inside state prisons as well as the delivery of transformative programming. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Funding the department's requests related to the Constitutionally required provision of health care. This includes dental care equipment and supplies, creation of a Disease Management Unit, telemedicine services, and a nursing home care study. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Funding to ensure virtual court hearings proceed effectively and efficiently in coordination with the Judicial Branch, a process that has grown exponentially in recent years without a corresponding increase in DOC staff and technology capacity. This request is not currently funded in the bill.

- Investing in increased classroom space, education technology and partnerships to ensure Minnesota can take full advantage of federal Pell Grants newly available to incarcerated students. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Investing in creating an Evidence Based Practices Unit at the DOC to help ensure data-driven, solution-focused policies, training, and processes are applied in the department's work and in supervision practices across the state. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Funding the DOC's requests related to the safety, security, and operations of the state's prison facilities, in particular ensuring food services has sufficient staffing, and the DOC can implement enhanced security around incoming mail processing and distribution. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Investing in the DOC's efforts to increase accountability and transparency in state corrections, namely, to ensure sufficient Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion staff, policy review and research capacity, and the department's Internal Controls and Risk Assessment Unit. This request is not currently funded in the bill.
- Creating new pathways from prison to employment by establishing an Economic Opportunity and Public Safety Unit and invest in the DOC's EMPLOY program to link training, education, and industry in prisons to job placements upon release. This request is not currently funded in the bill.

I sincerely appreciate the work and leadership of Chair Moller and members of the Public Safety Committee. The investments in Minnesota's corrections system in House File 2890 will create a more comprehensive, systemic, and meaningful response to crime. When over 95% of those in Minnesota's prisons return to communities across Minnesota, our collective safety depends upon their success. Public safety is only possible when we work together as a state to offer opportunities, hold people accountable, deliver justice, and meet the needs of all Minnesotans.

Thank you for your work this session and consideration of the bill. We look forward to partnering with members on this committee between now and the end of the session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Schnell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Schnell

Commissioner, Department of Corrections

cc: Chair Kelly Moller
Members of the Ways and Means Committee



Office of the Commissioner

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 1000 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-5100

Phone: 651.201.7160 • Fax: 651.297.5728 • TTY: 651.282.6555

dps.mn.gov

April 18, 2023

Chair Olson and members of the House Ways and Means Committee,

Before I discuss the impacts of this bill to the Department of Public Safety and our partners and stakeholders I must take a moment to acknowledge the loss of a first responder this week. It is a stark reminder that the noble calling of law enforcement requires a unique combination of dedication to serve all, courage under duress, and the humanity to help others in perhaps their darkest moments. First responders are interwoven in the fabric of our communities. They are the mothers, fathers, loved ones, and neighbors of Minnesotans and they answer the call to serve each and every day.

The Department of Public Safety works to serve all communities and build a safer Minnesota. The imperative investments encompassed in the Governor, and Lt. Governors' public safety budget recommendations come directly from community feedback and public safety professionals. In order to build and continue to create a safer Minnesota, it will require ongoing investments in prevention, intervention, and enforcement. I am grateful for important public safety investments already in HF2890 and I look forward to working with the House to continue to discuss areas where future/continued investments need to be made.

The investments in this bill that allow us to continue our current services are appreciated and necessary to do the work required of us. The full funding for the Force Investigations Unit (FIU) is a critical resource. It serves as a highly specialized and independent investigative body for numerous high-profile and difficult cases, including Officer Involved Deadly Use of Force, Criminal Sexual Conduct involving Police Officers, Criminal Sexual Conduct Involving Minnesota National Guard Members, and Conflict of Interests Investigations. Thank you for the continued investment.

School violence has far too often made headline news. Additionally, the national rise in "swatting" calls to our children's schools by foreign actors is a troubling trend and we must work to find ways to adapt. Investing in additional school safety center staff as this bill does will allow us to work directly with schools across Minnesota on the safety needs they've identified to improve their safety plan.

Funding the new BCA State Fraud Unit allows us to provide state agencies with a resource to report suspected criminal fraud. This approach will center resources to disrupt significant fraudulent activity and hold those accountable who wish to prey upon state programs designed to assist Minnesotans in need.

Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of
Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Pipeline Safety

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire
Marshal

April 18, 2023

Minnesota is a leader in the emergency communications 911 space. Updating our 403 statutes to ensure we are ready for the Next Generation of 911 will help ensure we continue to be. DPS is still working with some stakeholders to adapt the language but believes that the update and \$7 million in funding for local and Public Safety Answering points will help keep Minnesotans safe now and into the future.

Returning the fire safety surcharge to 0.65% supports firefighters and fire safety needs across Minnesota. This is a critical investment for Minnesotans as fire deaths continue to climb. The state emergency response teams are the state's resources that go to work when the worst situations happen in any community across the state from hazardous materials spills to bombs to collapsed structures to rescues from our Minnesota Air Rescue Team, thank you for providing additional funding to these critical teams. The current bill does not include the additional funding requested for the 4 state bomb squads or the non-responsible party fund. The bomb squads are local teams that work to help keep everyone in the State safe and should be reimbursed by DPS for their work.

Expanding the soft body armor reimbursement program to all first responders is important and supports what DPS has heard from stakeholders. In addition, the line-of-duty death benefit to include PTSD-related suicide deaths for all first responders is an important update to acknowledge the real impact this work has on public servants. Additional funding is also needed to ensure DPS can make timely payments to families who have lost a loved one.

There is a continuous need for investments in the community throughout the State to address and prevent crime. As we have testified, requests for these funds are double or triple the amount available. HF 2890 invests an incredible \$100M one-time appropriation for Community Crime and Violence Prevention Grants. While this is a robust investment it is a one-time appropriation, and we know these needs throughout Minnesota will continue to be unmet over time.

The federal funding gap for VOCA would be devastating to Minnesota non-profits dedicated to working with crime victims throughout the state. I am grateful you are helping to fill this gap with state funding on an ongoing basis. Funding for additional OJP staffing is critical to their ability to meet the needs of Minnesotans, whether through grant funding, crime victim assistance, data, and analysis, or education and training. Thank you for the recognition of the critical work this division does.

Thank you for funding the request for Domestic and Sexual Violence Housing. Traditional housing programs do not have advocacy training or dedicated crime victim services. Some regions of our state do not have these services and there is a limit of beds available for survivors fleeing and a lack of adequate housing. This funding will help increase safe housing options for survivors.

The investment in the nation's first Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls (MMAAW) office is historic and needed. This funding includes a Director, a Systems Coordinator, a Victims Specialist, a Training Coordinator, a Research Analyst, and Grants Manager/Administrative Specialist. In addition, funds will be used for training development, statewide training for specific professions, research and report writing on the issues and systems perpetuating MMAAW, and for grants to organizations led by and serving Black women and girls to support the safety and success of Black women and girls.

The Walz-Flanagan administration and DPS strongly support criminal background checks and creating extreme risk protection orders related to firearms. We believe DPS could also continue to make Minnesota safer with funding to continue our firearm safety campaign.

The BCA's Violent Reduction Strategy Initiative can be funded for a short duration under the funding mechanism provided in the special revenue account. However, ongoing funding is necessary to meet the

needs of Minnesota. Currently, the BCA has assigned more than 10% of its agents to violent crime reduction strategies in Minneapolis and the greater Twin Cities Area since April of 2022. During this time, the BCA, working with local and federal partners, opened 187 cases,

- seized 424 firearms,
- seized 131,122 fentanyl pills,
- seized 10 kilograms of heroin,
- seized 9,979 grams of powder fentanyl,
- seized 10.5 kilograms of cocaine,
- seized 99 pounds of methamphetamine, and
- arrested over 800 people wanted for violent crimes such as shootings, homicides, and weapons trafficking.

The analytical component of this ask is an ongoing need for Minnesota. Just last week the Anti-Defamation League announced an all-time high for anti-Semitic incidents across our country over the last year. We have seen numerous threats to our schools and doxing incidents claiming school shootings were occurring. We have seen a rise in hate-related incidents in our communities of color and LGBTQ+ communities. These analytical resources are critical ongoing resources to identify these trends, analyze who are the perpetrators, share information, and prevent attacks from occurring. This type of work needs to be fully funded to continue into the future.

We are thankful for the partial investment in the BCA's critical cybersecurity and system's needs. The BCA's Cybersecurity and IT Infrastructure funding addresses critical cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities to BCA systems, while also meeting FBI requirements and upgrading essential IT infrastructure and systems. Security threats from hackers and malware attacks continue to grow exponentially. Not making these basic investments will put sensitive criminal justice data on individuals at risk, and the BCA will continue to fall behind in ensuring the security of the data. The BCA has more than 30 different systems that provide this sensitive data. BCA must upgrade the eCharging system, the audit trail system, and other basic technical infrastructure to maintain the security and reliability of the systems and data. The current systems and infrastructure are not sustainable as is and need to be replaced.

Thank you for the incredible investment in youth funding made in this bill, such as the additional funds for the work of the YIP program and establishing an ongoing Dual Status Youth Grant program. However, there remains a need, as identified by justice-involved youth throughout the state, for additional investments in community-based programming, mental and chemical health programming, and anti-gang programming as well as additional funding for additional delinquency prevention programming throughout the state. The Office of Justice Program budget proposal is a robust approach to diversifying funding to meet the unmet and continued needs of the community. We ask you to work with us to find ways to diversify the funding for justice involved youth in Minnesota.

I am grateful for the recognition in this bill of finding additional resources to support the mental health and wellness of our emergency and first responders. I look forward to continued conversations with you about ways to accomplish both of our objectives.

I understand the committee can only work within its budget target, but I do want to call out multiple critical investments that were not included in HF2890.

April 18, 2023

HSEM is understaffed to meet the needs of local entities and federal requirements. Funding is needed for the staff required to fill those gaps in service and provide additional training and the additional unfunded federal mandates in the National Qualification System. We are supportive of the funding for the supplemental security grants and the funding for emergency managers statewide.

The Walz-Flanagan administration recognizes that human trafficking (both sex and labor) is a significant issue affecting children, youth, and adults. Due to the state's efforts to strengthen its human trafficking laws, more is known about the extent of human trafficking in Minnesota. Currently, there are not enough grant funds to fund the Minnesota Human Trafficking Investigator Task Force (MNHITF), which is the only state-wide task force, to adequately meet the needs and demands placed on the MNHITF while ensuring adequate funding for local task forces. Direct funding to MNHITF while maintaining the grant funding at OJP would create capacity for a coordinated statewide approach that would best address human trafficking and allow the task force to not focus only on sex trafficking, but also address labor trafficking. Funding this task force also frees up additional time for agents in the BCA Predatory Crimes Section which investigates child sexual abuse material cases going from around 3000 tips of suspected material in 2019 to nearly 7500 in 2022. In addition, having the ability for the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator to serve alongside the BCA Task Force enhances training and outreach opportunities.

The public safety budget put forward by the administration includes a critical investment to help decrease forensic evidence examination turnaround times for violent crimes. The surge in violent crime in Minnesota has had significant impacts on the turnaround times for all forensic evidence. This said, we agree that existing turnaround times are unacceptable, which is why we propose funding to establish a goal of a 30-day turnaround time for all forensic examinations. This approach will allow the BCA to reduce turnaround times to acceptable levels for all forms of violent crime. However, the funding provided in HF2890, along with the accompanying policy language, only covers sexual assault examination kits and would exclude other violent crimes like domestic assaults, homicides and non-fatal shootings. We are concerned this approach will impact these other violent crime turnaround times. Moving forward, we are committed to continued conversations with you, legislative leaders, and survivors to find a solution that will reduce turnaround times for violent crime and improve transparency and outcomes throughout the process.

The additional, funding requested for the Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education will assist in meeting the unmet annual reimbursement requests for the initial and ongoing training requirements for every fire department in Minnesota. This funding would take some of the cost off of the local municipalities to ensure that their firefighters are trained and prepared to keep their communities safe.

The Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement (AGE) division is statutorily responsible for completing criminal history background checks for various applicants, employees, licensees, and vendors at the Minnesota Lottery, Minnesota Gambling Control Board, the Minnesota Racing Commission, and twenty Indian gaming casino properties pursuant to the Class III casino gaming Tribal-State Compacts. The criminal history background checks are completed using protected data from the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) network. AGE recently submitted to a CJIS audit and was informed that its network is not compliant with CJIS requirements. AGE must maintain CJIS compliance to continue processing criminal history background checks and needs the requested \$600,000 FY24 and \$100,000 ongoing in order to do so.

The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office has identified a need for additional staff and funding to establish an MMIR Advisory Board to meet the statutory obligations found in MN Statute

April 18, 2023

299A.85. We appreciate the creation of the MMIR fund but want to emphasize the importance of supporting victims and their families throughout Minnesota while working on the directives set out in the authorizing language.

DPS has heard from community members, stakeholders, and law enforcement members about the importance of all peace officers having a body-worn camera. It is not common for everyone involved to be looking for the same solution in the public safety space but on this, everyone agrees. I strongly believe that the state can help make body-worn cameras a reality in every community.

It is critical to support impacted families and communities after an event. The MN Heals proposal provides support and resources for communities after an impactful incident, such as mass shootings or natural disasters, as well as impacted families to promote healthy healing.

We are grateful for these investments and want to reemphasize the deep need for ongoing operating funding for the work of our divisions and special units. The proposals brought forward this year are critical to building a safer Minnesota and for that impact to be sustained.

Department of Public Safety (DPS) supports and wants to express our gratitude for Chair Moller's leadership and continued investments in public safety efforts for a safer Minnesota. I am confident we can and will continue to work together to create solutions to any issues. The Department of Public Safety works to serve all communities to build a safer Minnesota. Thank you for making the investments needed to move this mission forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Jacobson".

Bob Jacobson
Commissioner Department of Public Safety

IMPROVING PROBATION FUNDING

Minnesota's Probation Funding System is Unnecessarily Complex

In Minnesota, there are three probation delivery systems, and each has its own method of funding.

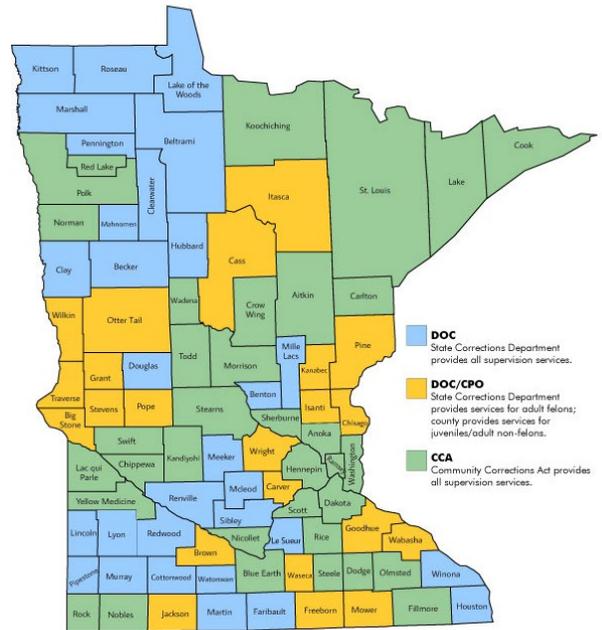
The **Department of Corrections (DOC)** receives a direct agency appropriation from the Legislature and is included in the Gov. Tim Walz's budget request to the Legislature. DOC Field Services has received cost of living increases annually but these increases have not been enough to hire enough staff to achieve manageable caseloads.

County Probation Officer (CPO) counties provide and pay for probation services for juveniles and adult non-felons, which is reimbursable up to 50% from the DOC. The reimbursement is currently only funded at 26%.

Community Corrections Act (CCA) counties have a static hold harmless amount and a subsidy amount that is sporadically increased by the Legislature, equating an average of less than 1% a year.

Correctional Delivery Systems

as of July 2021



Simplifying the Funding Formula Can Improve Probation Services Statewide

The proposed formula simplifies an unnecessarily complex funding system by creating a single community supervision fund for the entire state. Under this proposal, Minnesota's 87 counties retain their choice of delivery system, but they would all be funded the same way.

The formula has two primary components:

- **A base of funding for each county to provide stability over time;** and,
- **A per-capita distribution that factors in probationer risk, staffing needs, and the other essential costs of doing business.** In other words, a "capitated rate"

About the Capitated Rate

An average cost to supervise one probation client per day. In Minnesota, we generally call it a per diem.

Developed using data collected by the American Probation and Parole Association in a statewide workload study commissioned by AMC.

The capitated rate is an average cost per client based on ideal caseloads for low, medium, and high-risk clients. Clients with higher risks and needs generally require more resources and more intensive supervision with lower client to agent ratios.

Community Supervision Advisory Committee

HF 1838/SF 2380 establishes a Community Supervision Advisory Committee, which will ensure that collaboration between the state, counties, tribal governments, and other justice stakeholders continues into the future. This committee will provide recommendations to the Commissioner of Corrections related to implementation of evidence-based practices statewide. The Legislature will receive reports related to policy implementation by the DOC Commissioner.



For more information, please contact:

Carli Stark, Public Safety Policy Analyst
 Director, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties
 Direct: 651-789-4335 | cstark@mncounties.org



April 17, 2023

Dear Chair Olson and Members of the House Ways and Means Committee:

Metro Cities, representing the collective interests of cities in the metropolitan area, appreciates the opportunity to comment on HF 2890 (Moller).

Metro Cities supports flexible state funding for public safety innovation at the local level. Metro Cities supports funding in Article 1, Section 13 for the Community Crime and Violence Prevention Account. Metro Cities supports the use of this account to award grants to cities and organizations working collaboratively with local governments for community crime and violence prevention programs including but not limited to juvenile diversion programs.

Metro Cities supports other key funding provisions found in Article 1 of HF 2890 including:

- \$1 million each year for grants to local governments to purchase or upgrade equipment that can be used as part of the Statewide Public Safety Radio Communication System and over \$20 million to MnDOT for the cost of operating the statewide radio system backbone.
- \$7.5 million each year for youth intervention programs under Minnesota Statutes, Section 299A.73.
- \$3 million each year for grants to law enforcement agencies and local governments to build or maintain mental health co-responder models.
- Investments in first responder mental health.
- \$7 million to support Public Safety Answering Points' transition to Next Generation 911.
- \$2.9 million each year for reimbursements to local governments for peace officer training costs.

Metro Cities supports Article 7, Section 10, which requires that the Department of Public Safety's annual uniform crime report include data on carjacking, as its own distinct category.

Local agencies of all sizes in the metropolitan region are experiencing retention and recruitment challenges. **Metro Cities supports the reimbursements for officer training, retention bonuses, and student loan costs** found in Article 8, Section 16 of HF 2890.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Lund".

Mike Lund
Government Relations Specialist
Metro Cities

Dr. Ryan Kelly
Director, Addiction Medicine, University of Minnesota Medical Center

Re: HF2890

To Whom it may concern:

Minnesota is in the midst of an overdose crisis. Since 2010, there has been a 327 percent increase in opioid-related deathsⁱ. HIV outbreaks in Hennepin, Ramsey, and Saint Louis counties, as well as the steady increases in Hepatitis C cases, confirm that our state has the wrong approach to Minnesota's drug epidemic.

Minnesota's current focus on punishing people with substance use disorders instead of increasing access to support has resulted in a 370 percent increase in our state's jail population since 1970ⁱⁱ. This has resulted in further incarceration, marginalization, and death in disproportionately affected communities. Our communities of color, LGTQIAA+, urban, and rural Minnesotans deserve better.

Harm reduction, substance use, and medical communities continue to have their expertise sidelined by models focused on punitive measures. It is our belief that evidence-based practice, gold standard treatment, and grassroots level wellness systems should lead the legal landscape behind state-wide drug reform.

We represent a large collective of harm reduction organizations, syringe service providers, state government entities, Minnesota medical professionals (including the Minnesota Medical Association), hospital systems, substance use treatment providers, and people with lived experience.

We strongly support the Syringe Service Program language, found in lines 233.21, 235.13, 236.5, 241.22, and the repealer provisions of HF 2041 (line 243.6).

However, we have serious concerns regarding the proposal regarding penalties for fentanyl (line 236-23). Many of our patients with severe Opioid Use Disorder are also housing insecure, and/or face other challenges with resources, and do not have access to addiction treatment. Many of them have developed very high tolerance to opioids, and need to use a high amount daily just to fight off opioid withdrawal. Some patients are using up to 25 fentanyl tabs a day. If they have a several day supply on them due to their OUD, that could lead to a severe criminal penalties and prison time, instead of resources to improve their health. These are not drug dealer kingpins. These are people living on the street struggling with a health condition.

Minnesota's current legislative agenda continues to criminalize the disease of addiction and puts Minnesota families at risk. Measures like this, that 'right-sizes' the fentanyl thresholds will punish those who have substance use disorders, instead of guiding them to care. Criminalizing substance use disorder is the pathology of the war on drugs, and yet, Minnesotans continue to die at record paces. This model is not working. Major medical groups, including the Minnesota Medical Association (the largest group of physicians in the state) support Harm Reduction Models including decriminalizing possession of illicit drugs for personal use, and investing in syringe service programs, Safe Use/Overdose prevention Sites, and other policies that will increase access to much needed supports.

Please reconsider removing this section regarding fentanyl, line 236.23.

Thank you for your time,



Ryan Kelly, MD
University of Minnesota, Director, Addiction Medicine Consult Team

i Drug Overdose Dashboard - MN Dept. of Health (state.mn.us)

ii <https://www.vera.org/downloads/pdfdownloads/state-incarceration-trends-minnesota.pdf>

iii Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) | CDC

iv Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) | CDC

v <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2207866>

vi <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31536408/>

vii <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2207866>

viii Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) | CDC

ix Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) | CDC