

May 12, 2022

Chair Warren Limmer
Chair Andrew Mathews
Senator David Osmek
Senator Karla Bigham
Senator Ron Latz

Chair Carlos Mariani
Chair Jamie Becker-Finn
Representative Cedrick Frazier
Representative Brian Johnson
Representative Kelly Moller

Dear Members of the Public Safety Conference Committee:

On behalf of all residents of Ramsey County we want to thank you for your efforts to create a judiciary and public safety system that works for all Minnesotans. There is a lot to like in these bills and as you work together to craft the Public Safety, Judiciary, and Civil Law Omnibus package we wanted to connect and share Ramsey County's thoughts on a few items.

Community Supervision Funding and Formula Change – With our partners at the Association of Minnesota Counties, we are pleased to see the community supervision funding support from both the House and the Senate. As you know, throughout the last year, counties and partners worked together to identify an agreement that meets the needs of Minnesota. The AMC proposal allows each county to choose the best probation solution for its community. This is one of the best ways to ensure that repeat offenders receive the services they need, which ultimately protects victims and makes Minnesota safer. We encourage the Conference Committee to enact this full package by including the formula change included in the House language.

Local Government Emergency Management Grants – We appreciate the support from both bodies for the work of local government emergency managers. Consistent and robust emergency management funding is critical to ensure that we are prepared for any emergencies that may arise in our communities. We ask you to support the Senate proposal of \$3 million for grants to emergency management departments for planning and preparedness activities.

Red Wing Per Diem Cost Shift – While there are many good things in these bills, we are concerned about the proposed cost shift in the House bill requiring counties to pick up the full cost of youth who are sent to Red Wing. This increase will result in approximately \$325M in additional annual costs for Ramsey County's Corrections program.

Youth Violence Prevention – Finally, although it is not in either bill, we want to encourage you to consider the proposal contained in HF 4624 (Her)/SF 4286 (Murphy). A lack of culturally appropriate, community-based out of home placement options and other interventions for youth who engage in serious delinquent behavior has been a broadly recognized problem for years. The funding in this proposal will allow Ramsey County to create up to 25 community-based and culturally specific placements in secure intensive residential treatment homes. Equally important

is the additional funding that will be used for youth violence prevention and family support to boost the effectiveness of these treatment homes. Ramsey County remains committed to a policy of more community, less confinement with a continued limited use of out-of-home displacement. However, we recognize the need for more options to keep our justice-involved youth in our communities and connected to their families while receiving the treatment and supports they need. This proposal has bipartisan support, and we encourage you to keep it in mind as you consider options to address rising rates of youth violence in our communities.

Thank you again for your work in service to the State of Minnesota. In the days ahead please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have or to ask for any assistance you may need. Your work is critical to the well-being of all Minnesotans, and we are proud to be your partner in these efforts.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trista MatasCastillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo
Ramsey County Board Chair