

ALPHA EMERGENCE

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

May 1, 2023

Honorable Committee Members--

I am writing on behalf of Alpha Emergence Behavioral Health, an organization that serves approximately 1100 reintegrating men who have served time in the DOC and county jails for sexual offending. With regard to the public safety finance conference beginning today, there are two areas we are very specifically concerned with in our line of work. **We ask that you strike them from the bills.**

1. Remove the amended language in MRRA that provides for law enforcement, victims organizations and prosecutors to determine whether someone qualifies for MRRA. This language goes away from the original intent of this bill and puts us right back in the status quo.....**carve outs based on fear and not actual data.** It will likely automatically exclude those men and women who have served the longest sentences and, very likely, completed the most rehabilitative programming during that time. Those with the longest sentences and most programming (incarcerated persons with homicide, arson, sexual offenses, etc) also have the lowest reoffense rate and reincarceration rate of any felony offenses, per the 2021 MN DOC Performance Report. Additionally, predetermining whether an incarcerated person qualifies for this program does not even give them a chance to make a case and assumes that they are not worth rehabilitation.

Our suggestion, should there need to be any sort of predetermination, is to use the actuarial tools the DOC already uses to determine risk. They often include discipline history in the DOC, criminal history, programming, support networks, treatment completion, etc. And, those same actuarial tools do not consider the "fear factor." They are based on data and research and reality.

2. Remove language adopted in the Senate that allows local entities to add residency restrictions for Level III offenders. The DOC has plenty of data and research to support that residency restrictions do not have any impact on the safety of those released or on the general community. Again, such an amendment is based in fear-mongering and not actual data that helps keep ALL of our communities safe. Law already includes a comprehensive process (attached) for such residency restrictions to be considered and some local courts (see Dayton decision attached) have struck down such language based on the principles of preemption.

Thank you for your hard work on these bills. And, thank you for considering carefully the input we have provided. My contact information is below if you have any additional questions.

Respectfully,

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