



CARLTON COUNTY

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

317 Walnut Avenue, P.O. Box 530, Carlton, Minnesota 55718

Kelly A. Lake, Sheriff

March 25, 2022


Representative Tina Liebling, Chair
Health Finance and Policy
Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Representative Tina Liebling and Members of the Early Health Finance and Policy Committee:

We are writing in support of the proposals to support children of incarcerated parents. In 2018, we implemented Carlton County Family Friendly Jail Initiative to provide support for our incarcerated parents and their children. We implemented parenting education programming and Family Friendly Visiting. We made changes to our visitation spaces to make them more family and child friendly, and have a program for family visits that includes face to face visitation for parents who are participating in our parenting education programs. Based on the testimony from participating parents, our program was having a profound impact. In 2019, Carlton County Jail partnered with the Minnesota Department of Health on the Expanding Model Practices in County Jails and Community Corrections to Support Children of Incarcerated Parents Project. Through Federal Funding, we hired a Family Community Liaison to provide support and services to the children and caregivers of Carlton County Jail incarcerated parents. The Model Jail Practices Learning Community Grant funding ends this year. Our collected data shows three-fourths of the men and women in Carlton County Jail are parents with children under 18. From Minnesota student survey, we know the most commonly reported Adverse Childhood Experience is having a parent who has been incarcerated. Carlton County Jail is committed to decrease the stress and trauma and build the resiliency of children affected by parents' incarceration. Our data also shows preserving the relationships with family members while incarcerated promotes rehabilitation and reduces recidivism for our offenders. The proposal before you will allow agencies, such as ours, to continue to make positive change for the children of incarcerated parents.

Sincerely,


Kelly Lake
Sheriff


Stephanie Upton
Jail Program Coordinator

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