

401 N Robert Street, Suite 150 St. Paul, MN 55101

February 8, 2023

via email

Rep. Kelly Moller, House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee 585 State Office Building St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Moller and committee members:

On behalf of the 1700+ members and affiliates of the St. Paul Area Chamber, who together represent more than 3 million employees and their families, thank you for the opportunity to comment on H.F. 600. This bill reflects collaboration between Ramsey County, the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office, the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, and the business community and I urge your support.

The economic vitality of the East Metro region depends on the assurance of public safety in our communities. While the increase in crimes against people and property have been a national trend, the St. Paul Area Chamber believes there are steps that can be taken at the city, county, and state level to increase public confidence in the safety of our communities while promoting better public safety outcomes.

With many offenders committing violent crime within Ramsey County being juvenile, an investment in juvenile delinquency treatment homes and post-placement wrap-around services for youth and their families will help prevent violence and recidivism.

We applaud the leaders of Ramsey County–elected officials, law enforcement, and prosecutors – coming together in support of this proposal. We believe that their consensus demonstrates the impact these investments could have in improving public safety in Ramsey County. Accordingly, we ask the committee to support this legislation.

Respectfully,

Benda L. Kyle

B Kyle President & CEO St. Paul Area Chamber

