

Hello Senators

Thank you for all the work you have done to put this public safety package together that will hopefully make an impact in the horrible crime epidemic we are currently experiencing in our state. Like Lisa Walker, my daughter (14 year old) and I were victims of an armed home invasion and needless to say it was an awful experience that has left trauma that will likely last a lifetime. Since my home invasion in December, I too have been working to better understand the criminal justice system in Minnesota. Unfortunately, as you all know our "system" is broken at best and as many of the testifiers stated it is woefully underfunded particularly in the area of probation. And given that 60% of prison admissions are due to failed supervision we can not continue the practice of prioritizing probation if we are not going to commit to fully funding the system.

This year with the budget surplus it is time for our state to commit to funding the statewide public safety database. Thank you to Senator Latz for bringing this to the committee's attention yesterday. Without this statewide system we will continue to have Lisa Walkers and many others who become needless victims due to this broken system. It is not a joke that there are law enforcement agencies who still use fax machines to provide reports and this does not lead to timely communication. The investigators are under time constraints following an arrest and with their huge caseloads they do not have time to contact multiple jurisdictions in the hopes they might find out if charges are pending in another county or if the person is on probation in another part of the state. At a recent public safety forum in Minneapolis, Catherine Johnson, from Hennepin County Corrections also brought this huge gap to the attention of the audience. The pretrial Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI) that is used to determine if a person should be held prior to trial as well as the Judicial RAI that is used to determine if a juvenile should be placed back in their community, on Electric Home Monitoring or in Out of Home Placement is only as useful as the data that is put into it. In order to have the most up to date and accurate data to make the best determination on placement pre-trial and after sentencing it is imperative that our state has a system where all of the necessary information to make the decision that will best protect the public's safety. Please add the Public Safety Statewide Data System Bill to your Public Safety Omnibus Bill.

Thank you for your attention to this critical piece of legislation.

Julie Wicklund