



April 11, 2023

RE: County Comments on S.F. 2909

Dear Chair Marty and Members of the Finance Committee:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA), Minnesota Rural Counties (MRC), Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC), and Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers (MACPO) collectively represent all 87 counties in Minnesota which are responsible for the supervision of 80% of the people on probation in the state.

We strongly support the inclusion of the community supervision appropriations and funding formula policy in S.F. 2909.

While we are grateful for the significant increase, counties have been working for almost three years on the original proposal from S.F. 2830 to transform the probation system through a new formula and a data-based appropriation request of approximately \$83 million per year. **Counties respectfully urge your committee and other members of the Legislature to fully fund our request.**

The AMC Community Supervision Workgroup, along with partner organizations, put in hundreds of hours of work and significant financial support to create transparent, needs based, and equitable funding among county and state supervision providers. The policy recommendations apply one method of funding for all counties, regardless of delivery system while retaining the local choice of three probation delivery systems.

Equally important, the bill creates the Community Supervision Advisory Committee which will ensure that all counties are able to provide evidence-based practices through measures such as the development of a training and quality assurance program. The funding and policy provisions in the bill are intended to work in concert to ensure Minnesota is seeing the best outcomes for clients and communities.

Every county in Minnesota has passed a resolution in support of a new funding formula. Please ensure that your appropriation not only supports public safety in the short-term, but also fixes the funding formula to support all counties into the future and ensure the sustainability of our system.

Sincerely,

Julie Ring, Executive Director
Association of Minnesota Counties

Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association

Luke Johnson, Chair
Minnesota Rural Counties

Michael Schommer, President
Minnesota Association of County Probation Officers

Tami Jo Lieberg, President
Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties