



Attention Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota's criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development. The MNJRC centers our work around exploring values - like humane and fair treatment for all, safety, wellbeing, and trust - and provides our community and policy-makers with information and tools needed to create a criminal legal system that truly delivers justice. It is in this spirit of shared values, centering community and our commitment to meaningful change that we see alignment with Commissioner Rebecca Lucero and are excited to offer this letter of recommendation.

At the MNJRC, we aim to ground our work in communities directly impacted by the criminal legal system. In partnering with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) we have found a strong partner in Commissioner Lucero, who has demonstrated the same level of commitment to serving the community. Commissioner Lucero is thoughtful and planful in how she engages the community. She demonstrates the kind of leadership that takes community input seriously by centering and elevating community voices around the issues MDHR is taking on.

After the murder of George Floyd, Commissioner Lucero displayed historic leadership by using her charge to enforce Minnesota's Human Rights laws to respond to the moment. It is not an exaggeration to say the MDHR findings of race based policing in Minneapolis will be part of the historic narrative and the agreement the Commissioner is negotiating is positioned to be a model for re-imagining policing and justice.

Finally, at the MNJRC we focus a lot of our time on identifying shared values that can be used to guide our systems of justice. These values include fairness, equity, accountability and restoration. Commissioner Lucero is clearly a believer in transformative change. Over the last four years, she has shown the ability to steer a state agency through several transitions (staff, location, budgets and a global crisis) and has strengthened the department every step of the way. We credit this continued success as a leader to her steady belief that we can do better, and must use every tool and opportunity to advance equity and protect Minnesotans from human and civil rights violations.

In conclusion, Commissioner Lucero has proven herself a dynamic leader, capable of maximizing the tools of MDHR to execute its charge according to statute. Minnesota is a stronger state with her leadership and we strongly encourage the committee to confirm her appointment.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Justin Terrell", written in a cursive style.

Justin Terrell
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TRANSFORMING OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM
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