



Members of the Minnesota State Legislature
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of S.F. 586 – Prosecutor Initiated Sentence Adjustment

Members of the Minnesota State Legislature,

Violence Free Minnesota (VFMN) and the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) are writing in support of S.F. 586 – Prosecutor Initiated Sentence Adjustment. VFMN is a statewide coalition working to end relationship abuse with 80 member programs who provide advocacy and services to domestic and sexual violence victim/survivors in all 87 Minnesota counties. MNCASA is a membership organization that acts as a collective voice of organizations and individuals committed to ending sexual violence.

We recognize that sentences imposed in the past may no longer be in the interests of justice, including what may be wanted by someone victimized by the crime. In some cases, some form of abuse by another may have been a contributing factor in someone committing a crime and receiving a prison sentence. In both types of cases, this legislation provides a sort of safety valve, allowing locally elected prosecutors, who are accountable to the community where a crime occurred, to recommend prison sentences for judicial review and downward adjustment based on the input of victims, the interests of justice, and other current circumstances.

The idea that those who have been impacted by crimes just want punishment is a common misconception - generally they want healing and restoration for themselves, and acknowledgement, accountability, and even restoration for those who have harmed them; and they want a voice in what happens. This legislation allows for that voice to be heard while including adequate safeguards.

We urge you to support S.F. 586 and provide this important remedy for sentences that no longer make sense to anyone involved.

In community,

Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director, Violence Free Minnesota

Artika Roller
Executive Director, MNCASA

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Sarah Florman
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