

March 29, 2023

Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Avenue West.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee,

The Minnesota Inter-County Association (MICA) supports increasing state appropriations for probation services and community supervision by \$83.2 million beginning in FY2024 and distributing those funds to all 87 counties through a new and more equitable formula that supports public safety.

As currently drafted, SF2909, the Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus bill increases annual appropriations by \$40 million, the Governor's proposed funding level.

Minnesota is last in the nation in state funding for corrections, a reality that is also reflected in the inadequate funding levels for probation services and community corrections. Minnesota relies heavily on community supervision to protect the public and reduce crime by getting clients the help they need to be productive in their community. Proven, evidenced-based strategies for community supervision cannot be consistently and universally provided across the state without sufficient funding.

Creating a funding model for community supervision that is transparent, needs based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers is a top county public safety priority. Over this past year, a representative County Work Group collaborated to develop a data-driven formula that funds all probation systems through a single formula. The county's proposed formula approach is based on a capitated rate derived through analysis of the costs incurred to deliver effective, evidenced based supervision and services. We urge a new formula be adopted with supervision standards that enhance the continuity and efficacy of community supervision across all three delivery systems.

Thank you, Chair Latz and committee members for your consideration as you develop your Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety bill.



Matt Massman, Executive Director
Minnesota Inter-County Association