

March 28, 2023

Dear Chair Latz and Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

On behalf of all residents of Ramsey County we want to thank you for your efforts to create a judiciary and public safety system that works for all Minnesotans. There is a lot to like in this bill.

Ramsey County Youth Treatment Homes – We are deeply appreciative of the inclusion of SF 393, a proposal that works to address and prevent youth violence in our community. This proposal has the full support of the County Board, County Attorney, and County Sheriff. Ramsey County is ready to pilot these community-based and culturally specific intensive treatment homes. Youth placed in these residential settings will receive intensive wraparound therapeutic services to address their needs.

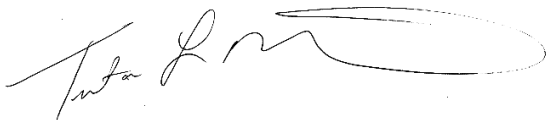
These homes, developed in collaboration with community, will include continuous learning with and from these youth and their families and service providers to improve the treatment and services we can provide to these young people. It is our hope that this work can serve as a model for future statewide efforts.

Equally important, and deserving of equal funding, is the appropriation for reentry support, family peer-to-peer support, respite options, and employment opportunities for these youth. These are things that our youth and families have been asking for and we see these efforts as essential to youth violence reduction in our community.

Community Supervision Funding and Formula Change – We also appreciate the inclusion of funding for community supervision in the bill and thank the committee for recognizing the important services counties provide. We ask for consideration of including the full \$83 million that was requested by the Association of Minnesota Counties, based on research and data gathered over the course of two years.

Thank you again for your work in service to the State of Minnesota. In the days ahead please feel free to reach out to us with any questions you may have or to ask for any assistance you may need. Your work is critical to the well-being of all Minnesotans, and we are proud to be your partner in these efforts.

Thank you,



Commissioner Trista MatasCastillo
Ramsey County Board Chair