



SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Senator Ron Latz, Chair
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
Saint Paul, MN 55103

March 28, 2023

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

Scott County 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 and replaces the out-dated formula developed in 1996.

While we greatly appreciate the committee's adoption of the formula, bill language and initial funding, we strongly encourage the committee to adequately fund community supervision at the level determined by the working group.

We need a funding level and model for community supervision that is transparent, needs-based, and equitable among county and state supervision providers and is our county's top legislative priority. Over the past 20 years, Scott County has been one of the fastest growing counties in the State. We have seen a significant increase in our probation case loads but due to the current formula, there has only been an increase in funding to Scott County of \$100,000 over that same 20 year period. Scott County provides nearly \$3 million from its levy each year to support community supervision in Scott County.

Over this past year, a representative county led work group collaborated to develop a data-driven formula that funds all probation systems through a single formula. They used real data, engaged the front line workers and achieved agreement from all three delivery systems (CCA, CPO and DOC) and 87 counties as well as the Department of Corrections. The funding level of \$83.2 million was the funding level determined by that working group to adequately fund community supervision moving forward.

This new funding level and formula for probation is so important to changing lives. We truly believe that if we all (counties and DOC) have the funds and resources to do supervision properly we can transform lives and significantly change community supervision moving forward.

Thank you, Chair Latz and committee members for your consideration as you develop your Omnibus Judiciary and Public Safety Omnibus bill, and thank you for your willingness to work with counties on this critical legislation for public safety.

Sincerely,

Tom Wolf, Chair
Commissioner District 2