

April 30, 2024

Dear Chair Pappas and Capital Investment Committee Members,

I am writing to support the inclusion of corrections infrastructure investments and asset preservation funding in Senate File 5251.

Your leadership and dedication to addressing the significant needs within our state prisons enhances public safety in Minnesota.

The Office of the Ombuds for Corrections strongly supports SF 5251, and the inclusion of \$60 million in general obligation (GO) bonds for asset preservation for deferred maintenance which addresses some of the considerable challenges in aging Minnesota Correctional Facilities and helps ensure the safety and wellbeing of those who live and work within the prison walls.

Additionally, thank you for including additional GO investments in infrastructure needs that support rehabilitative programming to further increase safety and wellbeing for incarcerated people, staff, and communities. Prioritizing the expansion of programming space at the prisons in Rush City and Lino Lakes connects directly with better outcomes.

Thank you for investing in Minnesota's corrections system infrastructure and the safety and wellbeing of staff and incarcerated people.

Sincerely,



Margaret Zadra
Ombudsperson for Corrections