

**Arthur Miller**

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**Judiciary and Public Safety Committee**

Minnesota State Capitol - Room G-15

75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard., St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

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

I am writing to express my strong support for SF 1291, which proposes essential funding to the Carlton County Attorney's Office to assist in prosecuting crimes committed within the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP). As an employee of MSOP and a concerned member of our community, I understand the critical importance of ensuring justice and public safety within our state's healthcare and treatment institutions.

MSOP plays a vital role in providing treatment for individuals who are deemed as sexually dangerous persons (SDP) or sexually psychopathic personalities (SPP) and along with other vital secured treatment facilities, ensure the safety of the community, the employees, and the clients. However, these facilities are not immune to criminal behavior, and when offenses occur within their walls, it is essential that they are prosecuted swiftly and effectively. SF 1291 will provide much-needed resources to the Carlton County Attorney's Office to address these challenges and ensure that justice is upheld, both for victims and the community at large.

The funding proposed in this bill will support the County Attorney's ability to investigate and prosecute cases of assault, abuse, property destruction, extortion, and other offenses that occur within these facilities. It will also allow for the hiring of specialized personnel who are equipped to handle the complexities of such cases. Without this funding, our ability to effectively prosecute these crimes and ensure the safety of all individuals within treatment facilities could be severely limited.

I urge you to support SF 1291 and ensure that the Carlton County Attorney's Office has the resources necessary to fulfill its mission of upholding justice. The protection of vulnerable individuals in treatment facilities and the broader community depends on it. AFSCME Local 1092 has worked closely with Senator Rarick, County Attorney Lauri Ketola and her team, as well as Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison and his team, to find a viable solution to the problems we face at MSOP.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue. I am confident that, with your support, this bill will make a significant positive impact in enhancing public safety and ensuring accountability within our state's treatment institutions.

Sincerely,

Arthur Miller

President

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