

## Opposition to SF1291 – Stop Wasteful Spending on MSOP, Reduce Population Instead

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to urge you to oppose SF1291, which increases funding for the Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP). MSOP is one of the most expensive civil commitment programs in the nation, costing taxpayers over **\$120 million annually**—more than double the cost of incarceration—yet it has failed to provide a meaningful path to release for those who no longer meet the legal standard of dangerousness. Instead of throwing more money at this broken system, the legislature should direct MSOP to reduce its population.

MSOP has become a **de facto life sentence** for many, including elderly individuals, those committed for offenses as juveniles, and those who have completed treatment but remain confined indefinitely. More than **100 individuals have died in MSOP custody**, highlighting the program's inefficiency and punitive nature. If Minnesota truly believes in rehabilitation, it must stop needlessly warehousing people at an exorbitant cost.

Rather than increasing MSOP's budget, the legislature should:

- Conduct meaningful reviews and expedite the release of aging and medically vulnerable individuals.
- Reassess those committed for offenses they committed as juveniles, in line with modern understandings of adolescent brain development.
- Ensure those who no longer meet the legal standard of dangerousness are discharged instead of being held indefinitely.

Spending millions to keep low-risk individuals in indefinite detention is neither fiscally responsible nor effective public policy. I urge you to **reject SF1291** and take legislative action to reduce the MSOP population in a responsible, evidence-based manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tiffany Minkel