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New Justice Project  
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**To: Members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee**

**Subject:** SF 1908 | Data Transparency Bill

Dear Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

On behalf of the New Justice Project, we are asking for your support on SF 1908. This means the State Court Administration would have the means to gather pre-trial data, and the Sentencing Guidelines Commission would need to study, report on, and share the data with the public.

New Justice Project is a non profit organization that empowers and educates those impacted by the criminal legal system and systemic racism. We have been a part of initiatives like Restore the Vote MN which restored the vote to over 50,000 justice-impacted Minnesotans.

Here at New Justice Project, both staff and members alike have had firsthand experience navigating the criminal legal system and how trying it is to navigate the pre-trial process while maintaining access to their housing and jobs. When someone is released to their community instead of having to pay cash bail, they are more likely to get the support they need to have a fair case and keep access to their basic living needs.

With the current data available, it is hard to assess pre-trial conditions which would cut costs for both the state and the person being impacted by the pre-trial process. For instance, according to the Prison Policy Initiative, 71% of folks held in pre-trial jails across the U.S are not convicted. We only hope for this bill to move us to the next step in creating fairer cost effective pre-trial processes in Minnesota.

Minnesota's pretrial system impacts families, our economy and Minnesotans wellbeing. It should not be allowed to operate in the dark. We urge you to support the passage of SF 1908 for pre-trial data transparency in Minnesota.

Sincerely,  
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