



Dear Chair Latz and members,

We write today in support of SF 1908. We are Violence Free Minnesota, the statewide coalition to end domestic violence, and we consist of over 90 member programs from every corner of Minnesota. Our members provide direct services to victims and survivors of domestic violence.

The data collected and presented in accordance with SF 1908 will help our state decisionmakers make key improvements to our pretrial release system. The data will help our state prioritize safety and justice in determining pretrial release, and obtain a fully informed picture of the impacts our current pretrial release system has on public safety.

The pretrial period can be a fraught time for victim/survivors of domestic violence. Abusers sometimes attempt to strengthen control over survivors in this time period to prevent their cooperation with the investigation. Additionally, survivors are often economically dependent on abusers, which means that pretrial detention and bail costs present a significant economic concern for survivors that merit tracking.

Solutions to these problems are possible and desirable. A great first step in this process would be to collect and analyze the data that SF 1908 contemplates. Ensuring that our decisionmakers are fully informed on the issue of pretrial detention is good for survivors, good for public safety, and good for Minnesota.

Thank you,
Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director
Violence Free Minnesota