



WESTERN PROBATION SERVICES

Counties of Big Stone, Grant, Stevens, Traverse and Wilkin

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Dear Finance Committee,

I'm writing to ask you to support Pension Omnibus Bill SF4276-DE2 Article 5 LCPR Amendment S4276-10A LCPR Amendment S4276-11A Establishing the Local Government Probation and Telecommunicator Retirement Plan to be administered by PERA. I support the probation officer and 911 telecommunicator pension bill and ask that you vote yes for the pension omnibus bill.

I am a probation officer and am asking for your support of the probation officer pension bill. While this bill is not perfect, it is a fair compromise and a major step forward for probation officers across Minnesota. Probation officers play a critical role throughout the entire criminal justice process, from sentencing to supervision, rehabilitation, victim safety, and community accountability. We regularly face trauma, volatile situations, and public safety risks similar to those experienced by law enforcement.

It is critical to finally create a pension plan recognizing the vital public safety work probation officers and 911 staff provide in communities across MN. This plan is the consensus product of the legislative work group involving people from all sides of the issue and has full support of the Corrections organizations across the state. It represents the culmination of intensive work and compromise over the last 3 years.

This bill was passed unanimously and with full bipartisan support in the LCPR (Legislative Commission on Pensions and Retirement). I believe this is the most reasonable plan that provides meaningful benefits for all probation and 911 staff across our state and is long overdue.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

Sincerely,

Kelsey Ringsaker

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Probation Agent