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Senate

State of Minnesota

December 10, 2021

Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission
658 Cedar Street, Suite G-58
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Commission Members,

During a time when repeat offenders are adding to sky-high violent crime rates in Minnesota, I have recently learned that a majority of members on the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission (MSGC) voted to move forward a proposal that would eliminate any additional consequences for an offender who commits a new crime while on supervision for a previous crime.

Essentially, the commission is seeking to abolish the custody status designation from criminal history scores for *all* offenders, which will reduce sentences across all grids. As a result, offenders who would go to prison under the current guidelines will get probation. Others who are serving time in prison will receive reduced sentences.

Your direction is dangerous.

As Chairman of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, I am adamantly opposed to this proposal and find that reducing presumptive sentences while violent crime continues to rise is a reckless disregard for public safety. I specifically ask the MSGC to withdraw this proposal from consideration especially since those who support this measure have not articulated any plan for keeping criminals who benefit from their new policy from re-offending.

When are we going to start paying more attention to easing the safety concerns of law-abiding citizens rather than alleviating the plight of criminals? It is a complete disservice to crime victims to fail to hold these offenders accountable for their actions. Making it a faster and easier process for criminals to get back on the street puts them in a position to break the law and harm more law-abiding citizens.

The Minnesota public is alarmed about crime, and with good reason. Our state constitution says that "Government is instituted for the security, benefit and protection of the people." Your proposal fails to meet this requirement.

Sincerely,



Warren Limmer
Chair, Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee



Senate Jeremy Miller, Senate Majority Leader



Senator Gary Dahms



Senator Bruce Anderson



Senator Rich Draheim



Senator Michelle Benson



Senator Gene Dornink



Senator Roger Chamberlain



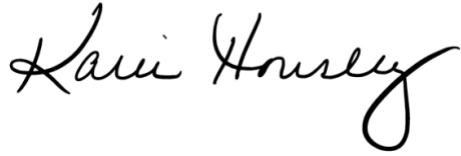
Senator Justin Eichorn



Senator Julia Coleman



Senator Paul Gazelka



Senator Karin Housley



Senator Scott Newman



Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen



Senator Eric Pratt



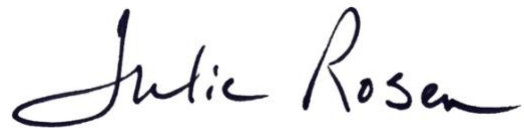
Senator Jeff Howe



Senator Jason Rarick



Senator Mark Johnson



Senator Julie Rosen



Senator John Jasinski



Senator David Tomassoni



Senator Mary Kiffmeyer



Senator Paul Utke



Senator Mark Koran



Senator Bill Weber



Senator Torrey Westrom

