

TEXT for Email to your MN Representative

Needs to be sent today or early tomorrow

Dear Representative “ “,

Would you be willing to help advance HF 46 “Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice” in the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee this Tuesday, March 21st? MN's juvenile justice system needs to provide the tool of restorative justice for every county attorney, peace officer and victim's advocate. In SE MN, Three Rivers Restorative Justice began offering the tool of Restorative Justice (RJ) to justice system partners 18 months ago and 6 counties are now referring cases and new cases are coming almost daily. So far all of the victims of crime who have participated in restorative justice in SE MN have said they are pleased with the outcome and would recommend it to others. Juveniles who have caused harm and are given the option of participating in restorative justice conferences routinely show increased empathy, decreased reoffending and 90% of them have completed the reparations agreements from the conferences.

Nationwide 94% of those who suffered a crime and participate in RJ recommend it to others compared to 24% of crime victims who experience the traditional judicial process. Meta-analysis of RJ participants nationwide shows a 20-40% reduction in reoffending compared to control groups who go through the judicial system. And the cost of Restorative Justice is only 13% of the cost of the punitive justice system.

There are currently 17 counties in MN using restorative justice as well as the MN DOC. More than 15,000 Minnesotans who have either been harmed or have caused harm were referred to RJ last year and this number is growing. Expanding RJ to be a tool in the toolbelt of every juvenile justice partner in MN will decrease racial inequity, the ineffective use of punitive measures, case backlogs, long waits before cases are addressed, and reoffending. HF 46 will increase healing and enable those harmed by crime to move forward with hope. I agree with DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell who supports this bill and who said “Restorative justice lifts up and provides healing for victims and builds stronger communities. ... One of the easiest places to introduce restorative justice has been in the juvenile justice sphere. I think it is going to be a game changer. Ultimately, we empower the entire system to think in a more restorative way.”

I am one of your constituents who knows the benefit of restorative practices for all involved and hope to hear from you regarding your support for HF 46.

Thank you for your efforts to improve our community.

**Talking Points for Phone Call to Your MN Representative and
House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Members**

Would you be willing to help advance HF 46 “Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice” in the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee this Tuesday, March 21st?

Nationwide 94% of those who suffered a crime and participate in Restorative Justice recommend it to others compared to 24% of crime victims who experience the traditional judicial process.

A recent study in Rochester Public Schools showed that when punitive measures are used on juveniles 70% of them reoffend within the year, when restorative practices are used, only 20% reoffend.

The cost of Restorative Justice is only 1/8th of the cost of the punitive justice system.

There are currently 17 counties in MN using restorative justice as well as the MN DOC, but resources are limited and it is still not available to most Minnesotans.

Passing HF 46 and expanding Restorative Justice for MN youth will **decrease** the following:

- reoffending
- racial inequity
- ineffective use of punitive measures
- case backlogs
- long waits before cases are addressed
- costs

Passing HF 46 will **increase** public safety, healing, and will enable those harmed by crime to move forward with hope.

DOC Commissioner Paul Schnell supports this bill and **said “Restorative justice lifts up and provides healing for victims and builds stronger communities. ... One of the easiest places to introduce restorative justice has been in the juvenile justice sphere. I think it is going to be a game changer.**

I hope to hear from you regarding your support for HF 46.

HF 46- Office of Juvenile Restorative Justice established, local steering committees required to establish local juvenile restorative justice programs, grants established, reports required, and money appropriated.

Status in the House for the 93rd Legislature (2023 - 2024)

Companion: SF55 (In Senate also)

Authors (6)Feist ; Berg ; Norris ; Clardy ; Frazier ; Smith

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 , 10:30 AM to be discussed and voted on in the “Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee” of the House

To find your representative go to <https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

It will also be especially helpful to encourage the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee Chair and members

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