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MINNESOTA JUSTICE RESEARCH CENTER REFLECTS ON MEANINGFUL PROGRESS IN 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION TOWARD EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE JUSTICE SYSTEM

St. Paul, MN — Following the conclusion of the 2025 regular and special legislative sessions, the Minnesota Justice Research Center (MJRC) highlights progress made in delivering an effective and humane criminal legal system for all Minnesotans. MJRC was proud to engage justice impacted community members, advocates, researchers, and more during the 2025 legislative session. MJRC testified eight times before Minnesota lawmakers, ensuring data played a role in decision-making on subjects like sentencing, supervision fees, and pretrial data.

Below is a summary of key bills passed this legislative session that move Minnesota closer towards a criminal legal system that centers fair treatment for all, safety, wellbeing, and trust:

- A **mandatory minimums task force** to determine the impact of long sentences
- **Expanded access to mental health** for people on probation and parole
- Law enforcement agencies now required to **trace recovered or confiscated firearms** with goal of improving investigations
- A move to **decommission Minnesota Correctional Facility-Stillwater**—a crumbling, expensive, and inhumane prison—by 2029
- Department of Corrections required to **maintain a supply of opiate antagonists in correctional facilities** to reduce overdoses

[View the Judiciary and Public Safety Budget & Policy Omnibus here](#)

Justin Terrell, Executive Director of the Minnesota Justice Research Center, released the following statement.

“The Minnesota Justice Research Center is proud of our work this legislative session to transform our criminal legal system into one that is effective and humane for all Minnesotans: no exceptions. We are grateful to the lawmakers, community members,

advocates, and organizations that share our vision and commitment to making it a reality.

Despite these steps forward, we know the work to achieve true justice lies ahead.

The work continues at the Capitol, in our communities, and beyond through community-centered research, education, and policy development towards the transformational change our criminal legal system needs and that every Minnesotan deserves.”

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The Minnesota Justice Research Center (MNJRC) is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to driving meaningful change to Minnesota’s criminal legal system through rigorous and community-centered research, education, and policy development. The MNJRC works with people with a wide range of knowledge and experience in the criminal legal system, including scholars, practitioners, students, survivors, and those who have served time in prison. For more information, go to www.mnjrc.org.