

Dear Chair Mercer and Members of the Committee -

Thank you for the great work you are doing in Subsection D. I appreciate both the depth and breadth of the issues you are looking into and the questions you are asking.

I wanted to follow-up on the questions posed today.

Prosecutor Case Management System

As mentioned, many County Attorney Offices have adopted Prosecutor by Karpel as their Case Management System. Attached is a map indicating which county attorney offices (dark green) have implemented or are in the process of implementing Prosecutor by Karpel. You will see that Yellowstone is dark green; however, due to the sheer amount of cases, complexity of cases and e-filing and the previous system in place, Yellowstone County has put implementation on hold and will reevaluate in the future.

With Justware no longer being supported, offices utilizing Justware had to find an alternative Prosecutor Case Management System. On the other hand, there were counties that did not have a case management system at all and have, for the first time, adopted an electronic case management system. The purpose of a case management system is to improve workflow, reduce redundancy in entering information, provide prosecutors a document bank which will improve the consistency and quality of petitions and allow for electronic transfer of documents between offices.

To be clear, I do not believe that the broad utilization of a prosecutor case management system will necessarily result in better data collection. We agree that we need better data collection and analysis across the board, but I am not sure that the prosecutor case management system is the mechanism.

Lastly, the intended purpose of the PSB case management system to have the ability to communicate with a local county attorney case management system is for the purpose of electronically sharing files on cases in which they are working together and/or a county attorney is transferring a case to PSB.

If you have additional questions on prosecutor case management systems at the local level, I would be happy to connect you with a specific county attorney.

Length of Supervision

I want to reiterate that the Montana County Attorneys Association is happy to have a discussion about sentencing in Montana and the length of supervision. Matter of fact, Rep. Patellis and I already set a date to start that conversation. Of Course, for Rep. Patellis it is really a continuation as I know this is an issue he has talked about throughout your work in subsection D.

If you have other ideas, please reach out.

HB 640

The Montana County Attorneys Association has been working on specific changes to HB 640 to ensure the information being gathered and reported results in meaningful data. Right now the sheer amount of data and the lack of consistent terminology and standards across counties results

in a deluge of information rather than isolating the high priority cases and providing a mechanism to cross check and ensure systemic sexual abuse and exploitation are not falling through the cracks.

While we have been working on a couple of different fixes, today's questions urged us to put pen to paper and move forward with draft language. I will be sending it out to stakeholders and will follow-up with the committee members once there is consensus.

Thanks again and please do not hesitate to reach out if I failed to follow-up on specific questions.

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