



May 3, 2017

Legislative Council Members
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of Legislative Council:

We write to you today to demonstrate our strong support for Senator Garcia's Interim Committee Regarding State and Local Public Safety Solutions. Across the state, county courthouses are underfunded and jails are overcrowded, putting our communities at risk and undermining access to justice. With state and local budgets being stretched so thin, an Interim Committee is the perfect opportunity to work with all stakeholders to craft creative solutions.

Colorado is one of the fastest growing states in the country, and subsequently, the population of our state that accesses our courthouses and is incarcerated in our jails continues to grow. In order to address the aging and overcrowding of courthouse and jail facilities across the state, we must have conversations about sentencing, probation, and parole policies that encourage the use of county jails in place of Department of Corrections facilities. We must also evaluate the existing Underfunded Courthouse Cash Fund and the Courthouse Security Cash Fund to ensure they meet the intended needs and provide assistance to our most vulnerable counties.

In addition to the strain of our growing population, Colorado is experiencing a heroin and prescription opiate crisis. This interim committee will explore opportunities to expand the use of drug courts, rehabilitation efforts, and diversion programs statewide to best serve the needs of our citizens and ensure equal access to justice.

Thank you for your consideration of the Request for Interim Study Committee Regarding State and Local Public Safety Solutions. We respectfully urge your 'YES' vote. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Commissioner David Weaver
Chair, JPS Steering Committee
Colorado Counties Inc.

Commissioner Nancy Jackson
Vice Chair, JPS Steering Committee
Colorado Counties, Inc.