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Law and Justice Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

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March 11, 2022

Dear State and Local Criminal Justice System Stakeholders,

The Law and Justice Interim Committee (LJIC) requests your input on a package of draft bills we are considering as part of [a study of criminal justice system data in Montana](#). We need your expertise to ensure any bills or other recommendations we make to the 2023 Legislature will function for all system stakeholders. The LJIC meets on March 21-22, 2022, and will hear initial feedback on these drafts then.

Our goal is to build the best criminal justice system data structure possible. The beneficiaries of a better data system aren't just policymakers in Helena. Better data can also help the system operate more efficiently and effectively for everyone. Cooperation and collaboration between branches, state agencies, and local governments are essential to achieve this goal.

We need your suggestions and feedback in order to arrive at the end goal of a better data structure. We seek solutions and ideas for improvement. If a draft or an element in a draft won't work in Montana or in your area of expertise, please tell us why and offer ideas of what might work instead. We value your specific input on how we can achieve cost savings for local or state governments while setting realistic timelines based on an understanding of the limits of your time and financial resources.

The three draft bills reflect a range of initial options. Based on your input, we can revise these drafts or request entirely new ones if we find none of the three options are right for Montana.

HJ31-1 is based on model legislation provided by two national criminal justice data stakeholders and on similar legislation enacted in 2018 in Florida.

HJ 31-2 is based on Arizona legislation from 2021 that requires a data collection survey and report to the Legislature recommending next steps and cost estimates.

HJ31-3 is based on Idaho legislation from 2020 that creates an integrated data system and an oversight council.

Please contact the committee staff, Rachel Weiss (rweiss@mt.gov or 406-444-5367), with questions about the study or how best to provide feedback to the LJIC on the drafts.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Esp".

Senator John Esp, LJIC Senior Senator