



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

Law and Justice Interim Committee

67th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

JOHN ESP
JEN GROSS
RYAN LYNCH
TOM MCGILLVRAY
KEITH REGIER
SUSAN WEBBER

HOUSE MEMBERS

LAURIE BISHOP
SHERRY ESSMANN
DONAVON HAWK
EMMA KERR-CARPENTER
AMY REGIER
BARRY USHER

COMMITTEE STAFF

RACHEL WEISS, Lead Staff
JULIANNE BURKHARDT, Staff Attorney
BETHANY MCDOWELL, Secretary

May 27, 2022

Dear State and Local Criminal Justice Stakeholders,

For years, the lack of complete, consistent, and integrated data about the criminal justice system has stymied our efforts to allocate financial resources and to enact policy changes that would improve outcomes for offenders and crime victims. The Law and Justice Interim Committee (LJIC) wants to solve this problem.

Regardless of who funds or operates each part of the criminal justice system, the separate pieces are intertwined. We want to work in conjunction with state and local partners to improve data collection and integration. These improvements will enable more analysis that can help us change the current reactionary nature of the system and front-load systems resources to achieve better results. Better results include cost savings for the state and local governments, but also better outcomes for offenders, crime victims, and their families.

We ask that you respond to the attached questions prior to our June 27 meeting. We will conduct another roundtable session at the meeting to continue this discussion and gather specific, proactive feedback on a bill that we are working on together. Please come ready with data project ideas, constructive criticism on the LJIC bill drafts, and a willingness to problem-solve with us.

Reach out to us with questions, concerns, or ideas. If you have questions about the June 27 meeting, please contact the LJIC staff, Rachel Weiss. Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Lynch".

Senator Ryan Lynch (D-Butte)
Ryan.Lynch@mtleg.gov
406-498-6625

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry Usher".

Rep. Barry Usher (R-Musselshell/Yellowstone)
Barry.Usher@mtleg.gov
406-252-2888