



S. 14 Draft 2.1 - Justice System Performance Data and Reporting

Sarah Robinson, Deputy Director

March 30th, 2023

Thank you for your ongoing work on S. 14 and the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

We have previously provided testimony to the Committee on the use of Justice Reinvestment Initiative funds and the important role of these funds in supporting the system of community-based treatment for individuals who abuse their intimate partners. For the purposes of today's discussion, we will focus our remarks on Sections 3-7 of the S.14 proposal.

We appreciate the proposal to create a Special Fund and Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council. Ensuring the predictability of funds and creating an allocation process for Justice Reinvestment Initiative funds will ensure the continued achievement of the goals of the Justice Reinvestment Initiative.

Throughout the past several years out-of-state bed savings have been intentionally allocated to create service delivery systems for community-based services and treatment. Vermont must maintain its commitment to funding these systems, which includes the domestic violence intervention programming.

The current process that has been used to determine annual investments would benefit from increased transparency and stakeholder input. This proposal has the potential to stabilize state investments in a predictable manner and ensure that the General Assembly is advised by a thoughtful stakeholder process.

The proposal in draft 2.1 includes many significant and promising changes to the revenue and recommendation process for Justice Reinvestment. While these changes are promising, there are some modifications that may be needed to the language. We would appreciate a few days to discuss this language with other relevant stakeholders and would be happy to return to the committee next week with specific recommendations for the language.