

First and foremost, **this bill will make thousands of criminals convicted of serious and even violent crimes eligible for early release.**

- About 92% of the prison population will be eligible for an early release through the Minnesota Rehabilitation and Reinvestment Act (MRRRA). It is applied retroactively and could impact about 7,400 of the approximately 8,000 prisoners in the state.
- Currently, convicted criminals spend two-thirds of their sentence in incarceration, and the rest on supervised release; the MRRRA reduces the amount of incarceration time to one-half of the sentence.
- The only exclusion in this provision is for life sentences which means those convicted of crimes of violence that didn't carry a life sentence are eligible to be released early.
- Some of the crimes eligible for reduced sentences under the MRRRA include: rape, carjacking, murder in the second or third degree, kidnapping, assault, domestic assault, arson, auto theft and subsequent crime sprees.

These are serious offenses and by releasing convicted criminals, we are risking the safety of Minnesotans.

Many of you have followed the case of Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty and her choice to prosecute teenagers as juveniles despite the seriousness of the crime. Attorney General Ellison has since [stepped into prosecute](#) that case, but Moriarty's position isn't an outlier for Democrats.

This bill would **dramatically reduce penalties, or even allow early release, for juvenile prosecutions where the offender was tried as an adult.**

- Juveniles who were certified mature to be tried as adults would be eligible to have their sentences reduced from the court-maximum of 25 years to as few as 15 years.
- There are 96 inmates currently serving time who would be eligible for early release. (See attachment.) Their crimes include:
 - the ax murder of parents and a sibling
 - the stabbing and slitting of the throat of a homeless individual
 - the beating and stabbing with a screwdriver of a victim while the victim was being raped
 - baseball bat beating death of a blind man
 - stabbing a woman to death 193 times and also killing a 10 year-old brutal rape of a girl with both mental and physical disabilities

The **Minnesota County Attorneys Association** has opposed this change because of the **seriousness of the cases involved**. (See attachment.)

While Gov. Walz and other Democrats have distanced themselves from Moriarity's decision, **Democrats at the Capitol are actively working to pass legislation that embraces Moriarity's work and reduces what "punishment to fullest extent of the law" means.**

Notable about this bill is **what isn't included to address concerns about public safety.**

- Senate Republicans have proposed several measures to get tough on criminals engaged in [carjacking](#), mandatory minimum sentences for those who [commit violent crimes with a firearm](#) and [fleeing a police officer](#) in a motor vehicle. This bill doesn't include any of these provisions, and further, doesn't take serious measures to address any of the crimes that have been a growing concern for Minnesotans.
- There is no increased sentencing for violent or repeat criminals, they don't address gaps in the law, and they don't support efforts to recruit and retain local law enforcement officials to meet the growing needs of our communities across the state.

We are not surprised a bill written by the party of "defund the police" won't dedicate funds to recruit, train, and retain a quality police force. For the Democrats who ran on public safety, this bill is a broken campaign promise.

On top of not providing substantial support for law enforcement recruitment and retention, Democrats are planning to funnel **\$91 million to community non-profits under the guise of crime prevention.**

- These non-profits can't arrest criminals and can't be expected to address violent crimes in their communities.
- We've even seen people who received grant funding as a [community non-profit arrested](#) for violent crimes themselves.
- Police officers are trained and equipped to respond to crimes, and a community organizer will simply not be able to help the person who is being victimized by a criminal.

Our state resources should be directed to improved support for law enforcement training, recruitment, and retention and not community organizers.

In summary, Minnesotans deserve to feel safe in their communities, to know when they call 911 there's someone to answer and respond, and that someone who commits a crime will face real consequences. This "Get Out of Jail Free" bill denies victims of crime justice, makes our state less safe, and doesn't support the recruitment and retention of the law enforcement officers we rely on to keep our communities safe.