

Hello,

On Friday the Senate approved a new plan for public safety spending. We've been calling the Democrats' public safety agenda the 'Get out of jail free' plan because it will let thousands of criminals out of jail before they've served their full sentences and is generally weak on crime. But the final version of this bill that the House and Senate agreed on is even worse than the first version the Senate Democrats came up with.

The conference committee that settled on the final version didn't have any Republicans on it. They cut money for three really important programs: programs to help the mental health of our first responders, more staff for school safety centers, and money for police body cameras. They also dropped a provision that clearly states pedophilia is not a protected class, even though that provision passed the House unanimously.

That means that, just like laws about race and gender, pedophiles can't be discriminated against.

The final version of the law also adds two new controversial rules about guns: red flag laws and background checks. I want to be clear: I do not, and will not, support any laws that take away rights from people who use guns the right way.

Other notable provisions in the bill:

- * Changes to landlord-tenant law and rental eviction record expungement, including limitations against crime-free lease terms. This makes it harder for landlords to provide a safe place to live.
- * Legislative approval of the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission's five-year felony probation cap, plus retroactive application to any sentence already in place in Minnesota
- * It puts the crime of carjacking into statute, but does not add any new penalty. A useless change.
- * It reduces sentences for juveniles charged as adults
- * It reduces prison time from 2/3 of an offender's sentence to only half, which would make 92% of our prison population eligible for early release
- * Significant new spending for nonprofit services, the vast majority of it has very little accountability

The Democrats' public safety budget will let thousands of people out of jail before they should be let out, and does nothing to strengthen law enforcement or keep communities safe. The Republican 'Safe and Sound' plan would have been a much better approach.

Congratulations to Clow Stamping in Merrifield!

A great local business, Clow Stamping Company, recently was awarded two major grants from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

It is always great when local, family-owned businesses are recognized for their track record of success and their critical place in our regional economy. Clow Stamping has always been focused on doing great work, offering good value, and taking care of their customers; they're a really important part of our community. I am excited to see what they can do with these two grants, and look forward to even more success in the future.

Read more here: <https://www.mnsenaterepublicans.com/senator-eichorn-congratulates-clow-stamping-company-in-merrifield-on-business-expansion-grant-awards/>

Congratulations Graduates!

I always enjoy this part of the legislative year. I personally sign congratulations letters to every graduating senior throughout the district.

If you have a non public or home school student and would like me to send a letter to your senior, please let us know. Call, E-Mail or DM us name and mailing address and I'll write the letter!

Congratulations to all of this year's graduates!

Veterans bill clears the Senate with a big bipartisan vote

The Senate recently approved a new budget that focuses on issues affecting veterans. This budget is a result of an agreement reached among the House, Senate, and Governor's office, so it will become law very soon.

The new legislation contains provisions aimed at assisting veterans who are experiencing homelessness and struggling with PTSD. It also increases the funding allocated to veterans' cemeteries, ensuring that they receive the proper respect in their final resting place.

Other highlights of the bill:

- * Increase funding and eligibility for bonuses for members who served during the post-9/11 military era
- * Honor the service of Minnesota's military members through a Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum dedicated to their service
- * Fund operations for the three new veteran homes in Bemidji, Montevideo and Preston
Provide enlistment and retention bonuses, which serve as incentives for retaining and recruiting servicemembers
- * Fund grants for veteran participation in Camp Bliss – a program where eligible veterans would receive therapy, transportation, and activities specific to veterans and their family or caretakers

I am proud that despite the extreme and divisive session we have had, that we were able to set aside our differences to take care of this state's veterans.

Contact me

If you have any questions or comments about the issues we are working on, please contact me anytime. My email is sen.justin.eichorn@senate.mn, or you can call me at 651-296-7079.

Don't forget to follow me on Facebook: <https://www.fb.com/SenatorJustinEichorn>.

It is a privilege to serve you!

Sincerely,

Justin D. Eichorn

Minnesota Senate, District 6