

Dear ACAJ Members,

Thank you for all of your hard work over the past six months. Justice Hardesty and I very much appreciate all of the time and effort you have put into this process.

Late last week a draft of the final report outlining the process we have gone through, the data and system findings we've reviewed, and the policy recommendations we've developed was posted on the ACAJ website for your review. Many of you have provided feedback on the report to CJI, which they have incorporated into the report.

We wanted to bring your attention to very important information on the projected prison population growth, associated cost of this growth, and the impact of the policy recommendations that is included in the posted version of the report. As you will see in the report and the chart below, **the prison population is projected to grow by close to 9% by 2028, costing taxpayer's an additional \$770 million dollars. The package of policy recommendations included in the final report are projected to avert 89% of this projected growth, saving taxpayers \$640 million dollars over the next decade** that can be redirected into the reinvestment priorities that we can have discussed as part of this process including law enforcement resources, victim services, and interventions that reduce recidivism and address the needs of the growing population with behavioral health issues.

Thank you again for all of your hard work through this interim. Each of you have added invaluable insight. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or CJI with any questions before the meeting. I look forward to seeing you all tomorrow.

Figure 1. ACAJ recommendations projected to avert 89 percent of growth

