



## Central Office

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November 10, 2015

Nathaniel J. Reitz  
309 Administration Building  
50 Sherburne Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Sentencing Guidelines Commission Recommendations to the Legislature

Dear Mr. Reitz:

In response to Justice Dietzen's request that Commission members submit written proposals for the Commission to vote on at the November 18, 2015 meeting, the following is a list of legislative reforms I believe should be recommended to the Legislature in its 2015 Annual Legislative Report.

- The Legislature should remove mandatory minimum sentences for some drug offenses where drug court or other treatment programs are available alternatives to prison time.
- The Legislature should raise controlled substance crime weights in order to move closer to comparable federal and other state laws.
- The Legislature should amend the definition of "imprisonment" to be the period of time equal to one half the inmate's executed sentence for some targeted non-violent crimes.
- The Legislature should make presumptive sentencing for all fifth degree drug possession cases, with zero criminal history, a gross misdemeanor sentence with time to be served in a local facility or under local supervision.

I believe these statutory changes would address the Commission's current concerns with drug sentencing laws and give the Legislature foundational direction for the next session.

Sincerely,

Tom Roy  
Commissioner of Corrections