

Governor Greg Gianforte
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620

August 4, 2025

Dear Governor Gianforte,

We write in support of your recent appointment of Jessica Flint as the designated civil rights advocate on the Criminal Justice Oversight Council. Mrs. Flint is a highly qualified and diligent advocate whose experience and integrity have earned broad respect among those who value genuine protection of rights and public safety in Montana. We respectfully address the concerns raised recently by some Democrat lawmakers and various liberal advocacy organizations regarding this appointment, and we affirm your decision to appoint Mrs. Flint, who is highly qualified and brings a fresh, competent perspective to this critical role.

Jessica Flint, as State Government Relations Manager for ADF, is exceptionally capable of serving as the civil rights advocate on the Council. Her professional background, including her work with ADF and prior roles with Senator Daines, Congressman Zinke, Congressman Rehberg and the Office of Public Instruction, demonstrate her ability to navigate complex policy issues and advocate effectively.

The concerns raised about replacing the ACLU overlook the organization's well-documented partisan political activity. The ACLU has consistently supported Democrat candidates through significant financial contributions and voter mobilization efforts, often prioritizing issues that closely align with Democratic Party platforms. This political engagement risks compromising the Council's impartiality, which should focus on objective, data-driven criminal justice reform rather than partisan agendas.

By contrast, ADF's advocacy, particularly in protecting female privacy and safety, addresses a critical civil rights issue within Montana's criminal justice system. ADF has championed the rights of women in prisons who face privacy and safety violations when housed with men. The ACLU, however, has opposed such protections, prioritizing a radical gender ideology over the safety concerns of female inmates.

Mrs. Flint's appointment brings to the Council a perspective equipped with strong constitutional grounding and a demonstrated ability to address complex public policy matters. We applaud this forward-looking decision and are confident Mrs. Flint's leadership will result in policies and reforms that truly serve all Montanans.

Thank you for your commitment to a fair and accountable justice system.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Steve Daines

U.S. Senator Tim Sheehy

Congressman Ryan Zinke

Attorney General Austin Knudsen

Congressman Troy Downing

State Auditor James Brown

Clerk of Supreme Court Bowen Greenwood

Superintendent Susie Hedalen

Senate President Matt Regier

Speaker of the House Brandon Ler

Senator	Becky	Beard	Representative	Randyn	Gregg
Senator	Ken	Bogner	Representative	Shane	Klakken
Senator	John	Fuller	Representative	Greg	Kmetz
Senator	Carl	Glimm	Representative	Katjy	Love
Senator	Greg	Hertz	Representative	Shannon	Maness
Senator	Josh	Kassmier	Representative	Tom	Miller
Senator	Theresa	Manzella	Representative	Braxton	Mitchell
Senator	Tom	McGillvray	Representative	Terry	Nelson
Senator	Mark	Noland	Representative	Nelly	Nicol
Senator	Bob	Phalen	Representative	Greg	Overstreet
Senator	Vince	Ricci	Representative	Gary	Parry
Senator	Tony	Tezak	Representative	Jerry	Schillinger
Senator	Barry	Usher	Representative	Curtis	Schomer
Senator	Shelley	Vance	Representative	Lukas	Schubert
Senator	Sue	Vinton	Representative	Kerri	Seekings-Crowe
Senator	Daniel	Zolnikov	Representative	Courtenay	Sprunger
Representative	Brad	Barker	Representative	Zach	Wirth
Representative	Ed	Buttrey	CJOC Member	Alan	Doane
Representative	Lee	Demming	CJOC Member	Jimmy	Patelis
Representative	Jodee	Etchart	CJOC Member/Sheriff	Ross	Canen
Representative	Terry	Faulk	Councilman	Scott	Aspenlieder
Representative	Paul	Fielder	Councilwomen	Jennifer	Owen
Representative	Steve	Fitpatrick	Fmr. Senator	Steve	Hinebaugh
Representative	Jane	Gillette			