



April 5, 2021

Governor Jared Polis  
Members of the Colorado General Assembly

Regarding: SB21-062 — Concerning Measures to Reduce Jail Populations

The undersigned members of the Metro Mayors Caucus write to add our voices to the chorus of municipal and county officials, and law enforcement professionals who oppose SB21-062.

SB21-062 would make permanent many of the emergency COVID-19 jail restrictions. Those suspected of crimes including arson, possession of a weapon by a previous offender, and violent offenses like assault, would be allowed to remain at large in our communities. The timing of this bill is concerning given that in 2020, Colorado experienced:

- 29% more murders
- 26% more violent crime with a dangerous weapon
- 17% more assault
- 6% more violent crime

There was also significant increase in property crimes, with an 87% increase in motor vehicle thefts in Denver and statewide increases in fraud (16%), burglary (12%) and theft (11%).

Understanding all the factors driving Colorado's significant increases in crime, and the significance of emergency COVID-19 jail depopulation measures among them, is critical to advancing fair and effective reforms that reduce unnecessary incarceration of low-level offenders while preserving public safety. As amended, the bill fails to strike the right balance, leaving victims at risk of revictimization and communities with no confidence that police can protect them from criminal activity.

We ask for your opposition to SB21-62 and would welcome an opportunity to engage in a stakeholder dialogue to evaluate potential reforms to arrest standards and cash bail that balance the need to ensure public safety, preserve victims' rights and reduce systemic inequities.

METRO MAYORS CAUCUS

(add signatures of mayors per their permissions)