

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2023

MEDIA CONTACT

Miriam Krinsky

krinskym@krinsky.la

818-416-5218

FJP Statement on Gov. Tim Walz Removing Cases from Hennepin County Attorney Mary Moriarty

[Fair and Just Prosecution](#) Executive Director Miriam Krinsky issued the following statement on Minnesota Governor Tim Walz reassigning cases from Hennepin County District Attorney Mary Moriarty to Attorney General Keith Ellison:

“What happened to Zaria McKeever is an absolute tragedy. No one – not the Attorney General and certainly not County Attorney Moriarty – would disagree with that. Her loved ones are in mourning, and nothing will ever fully heal their wounds.

But even as we share in the family and community’s mourning of this tragic loss, we must also bear in mind the importance of allowing the criminal legal process to operate as intended, guided by chief prosecutors elected by their community to reflect the vision for justice that those voters embrace. At the end of the day, these leaders are accountable to their community – as are all local elected officials. When state leaders step in and override an elected local prosecutor’s authority, it is a dangerous infringement on local control and a deeply concerning intrusion on the will of the voters.

Prosecutorial discretion has been respected for decades as district attorneys pursued the harshest sentences possible. It is only now, when reform-minded prosecutors are investing in evidence-backed reforms that align with data and brain science and have been shown to reduce future victimization, that this same discretion is being usurped.

Accountability is possible without pursuing the harshest penalties, especially when we’re talking about children, who have an immense capacity for growth. We hope more elected leaders will come to see that we all benefit when we stop relying on tough-on-crime responses and instead embrace new approaches that serve the interests of justice and public safety.”

###

Fair and Just Prosecution is a national network of elected prosecutors working towards common-sense, compassionate criminal justice reforms. To learn more about FJP’s work, visit our [website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#).