











February 5, 2024

Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee

Re: Letter in Support of Additional Funding for Crime Victims Services

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members,

The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC), the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), Violence Free Minnesota (VFMN), the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC), the Minnesota Children's Alliance (MCA), and Mending the Sacred Hoop (MSH), in community submit this letter on behalf of our member programs and the communities they serve. Our coalitions represent over 200 programs serving more than 68,000 victims/survivors of violence annually across the state. We advocate on behalf of our member organizations and individuals to lift the voices of victims/survivors at the legislature and beyond. The Coalitions are joined in this letter by member programs and their community and systems partners from across Minnesota who recognize the critical role victim services play in ensuring public safety.

We are writing jointly to request an increase of \$20 million per year in crime victim services funding. Crime victims services funding is used in communities across the state to:

- provide emergency shelter and crisis response,
- provide victims/survivors of violence and their families with support and resources for healing and justice,
- provide community education and violence prevention,
- promote public safety.

Our programs are a critical piece of public safety infrastructure, prioritizing victims/survivors' physical and emotional safety needs and providing legal support, medical care, mental health services, and addressing immediate needs such as food and shelter.

Due to years of stagnant funding from the state, exacerbated by a historic depletion of VOCA funds and cuts at the federal level, crime victims services programs struggle to maintain adequate staffing and provide the most fundamental services for victims/survivors in many communities. Working with victims of crime is difficult, highly skilled work done by dedicated advocates. Rates of compassion fatigue and burnout are high, and these stresses are compounded by wages that have not kept up with cost of living increases. Without this desperately needed funding, programs across the state will close, leaving victims/survivors of violence without the resources for support and healing that can only be provided by these experts. One advocacy program, 360 Communities, was not able to secure enough funding to keep its 21 bed Hastings shelter operational. These 21 beds usually served about 200 people every year—and now they are gone.













Crime victim services programs are integral parts of local communities, and the work they do cannot and should not be done by other arms of the public safety system. Without these programs, there will be fewer opportunities for individuals and communities to heal following experiences of violence. The community partners who have signed on to this letter have recognized the value of these programs in their local communities, and urge you to allow them to continue to provide these critical services.

In Community,

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Interim Executive Director Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

All Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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Breaking Free

CADA Inc. - Watonwan Co. Outreach CADA Inc. - Brown and Sibley Co. Outreach CADA Inc. - Nicollet and Le Sueur Co. Outreach

CADA Inc.

CADA Inc. - Martin Co. Outreach CADA Inc. - Waseca Co. Outreach CADA Inc. - Faribault Co. Outreach Canvas Health - Abuse Response Services

Center for Victims of Torture Central MN Sexual Assault Center

CLUES - Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

Community Health Service, Inc.

Community University Health Care Center

Cook Co. Attorney's Office

Cornerstone

Crime Victims Resource Center

Crisis Resource Center of Steele County Dodge and Olmsted Victim Services Enough. YMCA Youth and Family Services

Esperanza United Family Pathways

Family Pathways - Carlton Co. Office

Family Pathways

Family Pathways - Mora Office Family Pathways - Cambridge Office

Freeborn County Crime Victim's Crisis Center

Friends Against Abuse
Friends Against Abuse
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hands of Hope Resource Center
Hands of Hope Resource Center
Hennepin Co. Attorney's Office
Hmong American Partnership

HOPE Center HOPE Coalition

HOPE Coalition - Wabasha Office Jacob Wetterling Resource Center Lakes Crisis and Resource Center

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Family Violence

Prevention Program

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, Family Violence Prevention

Program

New Horizons Crisis Center New Horizons Crisis Center New Horizons Crisis Center

New Horizons Crisis Center - SMSU Office

North Shore Horizons

PAVSA

Pearl Crisis Center

Pennington County Victims Services

Phumulani Minnesota African Women Against Domestic

Violence

Pillsbury United Communities Rape and Abuse Crisis Center

Safe Avenues

Safe Avenues - Chippewa Co. Outreach Safe Avenues - Lac qui Parle Co. Outreach Safe Avenues - McLeod Co. Outreach Safe Avenues - Meeker Co. Outreach Safe Avenues - Renville Co. Outreach Safe Avenues - Swift Co. Outreach

Safe Avenues - Yellow Medicine Co. Outreach Saint Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse

Intervention Project
Sexual Assault Program of
Northern St. Louis County
Sexual Assault Services, Inc.
Sexual Violence Center
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Someplace Safe

Someplace Safe - Big Stone Co. Someplace Safe - Douglas Co. Someplace Safe - Grant Co.

Someplace Safe - Otter Tail Co. - Perham Someplace Safe - Otter Tail Co. - Fergus Falls

Someplace Safe - Pope Co.
Someplace Safe - Stevens Co.
Someplace Safe - Traverse Co.
Someplace Safe - Wadena Co.
Someplace Safe - Wilkin Co.
Someplace Safe Regional Youth
Trafficking & Exploitation Advocate
- Safe Harbor Supportive Services
SOS Sexual Violence Services
Southern Valley Alliance
Southwest Crisis Center

Southwest Crisis Center - Cottonwood Co. Southwest Crisis Center - Jackson Co. Southwest Crisis Center - Pipestone Co. Southwest Crisis Center - Rock Co.

St. Croix Valley SART

Standpoint

Support Within Reach Support Within Reach

Support Within Reach - Aitkin Co. Support Within Reach - Cass Co. Support Within Reach - Clearwater Co. Support Within Reach - Hubbard Co.

Terebinth Refuge

The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education

ThinkSelf

Transforming Generations

Tubman

Violence Intervention Project

Violence Intervention Project Roseau Office

Violence Prevention Center

White Earth DOVE Program

Women's Advocates

Women of Nations

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WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.

(WRAP) - Granite Falls

WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc.

(WRAP) - Redwood Falls

All Violence Free Minnesota

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Advocates for Family Peace, Itasca, Northern St. Louis

Advocates for Human Rights, International

Advocates of the Bemidji Area, Beltrami

- *Alexandra House, Anoka
- *American Indian Community Housing Organization,

St. Louis, Koochiching, Lake, Cook, Itasca

*Anna Marie's Alliance, Sherburne,

Benton, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Wright

ARRC Shelter, Hubbard

*Asian Women United of MN, Hennepin, Ramsey Battered Women's Justice Project, National

Bluff Country Family Resources, Filmore, Houston

Bois Forte Tribal Government - Victim Services, Nett Lake,

Koochiching, St. Louis

Brave of Heart, Washington

Breaking Free, Ramsey

- *Casa de Esperanza, Hennepin, Ramsey
- *Committee Against Domestic Abuse,

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Sibley, Waseca, Watonwan, Faribault, Martin

Community Health Services, Polk, Norman, Clay,

Pennington

Community Stabilization Project, Ramsey

Community University Health Care Center, Hennepin

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CURA-POT, Ramsey

Division of Indian Work, Hennepin

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs, St. Louis

Domestic Abuse Project, Hennepin

East Side Neighborhood Services, Anoka, Dakota,

Hennepin,

Ramsey

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*Family Pathways, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec,

Pine, Carlton

Family Safety Network, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard

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Freeborn

Friends Against Abuse, Koochiching,

Lake of the Woods

Gender Violence Institute, Statewide

Global Rights for Women, International

Hands of Hope Resource Center, Morrison, Todd

Hmong American Partnership, Ramsey

Healing Opportunity Provided Equally (HOPE),

Aitkin, Crow Wing

Hope Center, Rice

*Hope Coalition, Goodhue, Wabasha

Indigenous Women's Life Net, Ramsey, Hennepin

Kissy's Stay Put Services, Hennepin

Karen Organization of Minnesota, Statewide

*Lakes Crisis and Resource Center,

Becker & surrounding area

Martin County Victim Services, Martin

McLeod Alliance for Victims of Domestic Violence.

McLeod

Men As Peacemakers - Men and Masculine Folk

Network, Statewide

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All Minnesota Alliance on Crime Member Programs:

360 Communities

Agape Child Development Center (New Oasis of

Love Crisis Intervention)

Anoka County Attorney's Office

Breaking Free

Brown County Attorney's Office

Carver County Attorney's Office

Cass County Attorney's Office

Chisago County Attorney's Office

City of Blaine Police Department

City of Bloomington Attorney's Office

City of Duluth Attorney's Office

City of Minneapolis Attorney's Office

City of Rochester Attorney's Office

City of Shakopee Police Department

City of St. Paul Attorney's Office

Clay County Attorney's Office

Community University Health Care (CUHC)

Cook County Attorney's Office Cornerstone Advocacy Service

Crime Victim Resource Center (Mayo)

Crow Wing County Crime Victim Services

Dakota County Attorney's Office DOC VS & Restorative Justice Unit

D&O Community Corrections

Family Pathways Family Safety Network

Faribault County Attorney's Office

Friends Against Abuse

Hands of Hope

Hennepin County Attorney's Office

Meghan Hennessey HOPE Coalition

Isanti County Attorney's Office/SAIC

Itasca County Attorney's Office

Aaliyah Jensen Stacie Jergenson

Kanabec County Attorney's Office Kandiyohi County Attorney's Office

Lake County Attorney's Office

Micheala Leecy

LeSueur County Attorney's Office

Martin County Attorney's Office

Meeker County Attorney's Office

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Minnesota Center for Psychology

Minnesota Children's Alliance

Minnesota Elder Justice Center

MN Indigenous Women's Society

Missing Children Minnesota

Missions, Inc. Programs

Moorhead City Attorney's Office

New Horizons Crisis Center

The God's Child Project

Nicollet County Attorney's Office

Nobles County Attorney's Office

Norman County Attorney's Office

Northeast Family and Youth Services

Pennington County Attorney's Office

Pillsbury United Communities

Polk County Attorney's Office

Ramsey County Attorney's Office

Red Lake County Attorney's Office

Redwood County Attorney's Office

Relationship Safety Alliance

Renville County Attorney's Office

Rice County Attorney's Office

Rivers of Hope

Brenda Rodriguez-Kinley

Roseau County Attorney's Office

Safe Avenues

Lauren Schmitz

Lisa Smith

Someplace Safe

Southern MN Regional Legal Services, Inc.

Southern Valley Alliance

St. Louis County Attorney's Office

Standpoint

Stearns County Attorney's Office

Stearns County Sheriff's Department

Stevens County Attorney's Office

Survivor Resources

ThinkSelf

Watonwon County Attorney's Office

Patti Weber

Dr. Mary Whitney

Women of Nations

Women's Advocates

WRAP

Wright County Attorney's Office

Yellow Medicine County Attorney's Office

Zero Abuse Project-JWR

All Minnesota Children's Alliance Member Programs:

Red River Children's Advocacy Center

Family Advocacy Center of Northern Minnesota

Central Minnesota Child Advocacy Center

Child and Family Advocacy Center of South Central

Minnesota

CornerHouse

First Witness

Matty's Place

Mayo Center for Safe and Healthy Children and

Adolescents

Midwest Children's Resource Center

North Star Family Advocacy Center Southwest Crisis

Center

White Earth Band of Ojibwe Children's Advocacy Center

Child's Place

Southwest Crisis Center