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## **Statement on Sexual Harassment at the Minnesota Legislature**

### **For more information, contact:**

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The Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC), and our 71 member programs across Minnesota, stand in support of the women who have bravely reported sexual harassment perpetrated by members of the Minnesota Legislature. MAC stands with all people who are able to come forward and tell their harrowing stories of sexual harassment and we also stand with those who are not able to come forward at this time.

Sexual harassment is an epidemic in our hometowns. A 2016 report from the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission stated that “anywhere from 25% to 85% of women report having experienced sexual harassment in the workplace.” The same report found that 75% of sexual harassment victims faced retaliation when they spoke up.

We, as Minnesotans, must make it clear that sexual harassment is not welcome at the Minnesota Legislature or anywhere else in our state. Lawmakers hold the public’s valuable trust and must behave in an irreproachable manner when working with others, no matter their gender, race, ethnic group, nationality, sexual orientation, and/or age. No human being deserves to be sexually harassed.

The Minnesota Legislature must set the example for the rest of our state by creating an environment where sexual harassment cannot flourish. MAC urges the leadership of the legislature to consider the following, as originally suggested by our sister coalition, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women:

- Enhance safety in reporting that creates an atmosphere where victims are free of retaliation;
- Develop victim-centered responses by gathering input from victims of sexual abuse and harassment to develop clear processes and guidelines to respond to specific incidents of harassment and abuse; and
- Create accountability and measurable outcomes that, without secrecy, hold people who harass and abuse responsible for their conduct.

We urge MAC’s members and allies to contact their legislators and insist that our elected leaders protect victims of sexual harassment and hold offenders accountable. It’s time to end the epidemic of sexual harassment and move forward to a place where all Minnesotans are treated equally and respectfully.

### **About the Minnesota Alliance on Crime**

The Minnesota Alliance on Crime connects systems, service providers, and victims to advance the response for victims of all crime. MAC is a membership coalition of 71 crime victim service providers in Minnesota, including prosecution-based victim/witness programs, community programs, law enforcement agencies, and individuals committed to supporting crime victims. We support our membership through training, technical assistance, resources, public policy and legislative initiatives, and networking opportunities. For more information about MAC, go to [www.mnallianceoncrime.org](http://www.mnallianceoncrime.org).

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