



**March 8, 2024**

House and Senate Leadership

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

Dear Leadership,

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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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  
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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  
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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  
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New Horizons Crisis Center  
New Horizons Crisis Center

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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  
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Safe Avenues - Renville Co. Outreach  
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Someplace Safe - Pope Co.  
Someplace Safe - Stevens Co.  
Someplace Safe - Traverse Co.  
Someplace Safe - Wadena Co.  
Someplace Safe - Wilkin Co.  
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- Safe Harbor Supportive Services  
SOS Sexual Violence Services  
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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.  
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The Aurora Center for Advocacy & Education  
ThinkSelf  
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Advocates for Human Rights, International  
Advocates of the Bemidji Area, Beltrami  
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\*Anna Marie's Alliance, Sherburne, Benton, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Wright  
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Koochiching, St. Louis  
Brave of Heart, Washington  
Breaking Free, Ramsey  
\*Casa de Esperanza, Hennepin, Ramsey  
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Community Health Services, Polk, Norman, Clay, Pennington  
Community Stabilization Project, Ramsey  
Community University Health Care Center, Hennepin  
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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  
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Becker & surrounding area  
Martin County Victim Services, Martin  
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Violence, McLeod  
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Network, Statewide  
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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

**All Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault**

**Coalition Members:**

Dove Program - DV/SA  
Equay Wiigamig  
Fed. Bureau of Investigation  
Fond du Lac Reservation Advocacy  
Golden Eagle Prodction  
Grand Portage Human Services  
Hope Coalition DV/SA  
Kateri Residence  
Leech Lake Tribal Police  
Member of Grand Traverse Band  
Men As Peacemakers Community  
Merrick Community Sercices  
Mn. Dept. of Corrections, Vicitem Ast  
Mn. Indian Womens Resouce Center  
MN 350  
Native American Community Clinic  
NW Inidan Community Development  
Red Lake Nation Legislative Affairs  
Northwoods Battered Woman's Shelter  
Sahnish Scouts  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Support Within Reach  
Break The Silence  
Merrick Community Services  
Tate Topa Consulting  
Division of Indian Works Family Violence  
Woman of Nations  
Ain Dah Yung Center  
Prairie Island - PIIC  
Omaha Nation Community  
Mid-Minnestoa Woman's Center  
Angelica Allery  
Mary Sue Anderson  
Sasha Anderson  
Susan Anderson  
Candice Ballinger

Faye Beaulieu  
Lauretta Blakely  
Christina Bowstring  
Chandell Boyd  
Virginia Branchaud  
Juliane Chase-Wilson  
Nigel Cook  
Stephanie Cobenais  
Fran Crow Ghost  
Linda Eagle Speaker  
Serene Eidem  
Sarah Edstrom  
Abuse Response Services  
Jessica Ahlers  
Erica McKeown  
Brianna Littlewolf  
Tara Lewis  
Rachel LaRose  
Leech Lake Tribal Police  
Meskawaki Victim Services  
American Indian Family Center  
Caitlin Orgon  
Family Violence Prevention Program DV/SA  
Minneapolis American Indian Center -  
Indigenous Woman's Life Net  
NW Indian Community Development  
Holly Larsen  
Gabrielle Raymond  
Sandra Mount  
Colleen Dodge  
Chantel Alveshive  
Tia Krueger  
Barbra Hvewe  
Racheal Larsen  
Debra Thomas  
Melanie Menkench  
Lillian Jones  
Diane Gibbs  
Debra Accetta  
Jessica Ahlers  
Abi Glaum  
Leslie Clavel  
Maura Whiteley  
Brienne Littlewolf  
Jenna Reed  
Laurissa Wredberg  
Tabitha Delaney  
Amanda Tkaczik

Caroline Blacketter  
Cecil Longie  
Cere Swiftwater  
Charlise Sargent  
Eileen Hudon  
Ursula Watson  
Sandy Whitehawk  
Charlie Thompson  
Sandy Davidson  
Dawn LaRoque  
Heidi Novak  
Lisa Iyotte  
Vicky Fineday  
Crystal Hedemann  
Judy Tholen