



MINNESOTA
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE



March 6, 2024

Chair Pappas and Members of the Senate Capitol Investment Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of Governor Walz Recommendations for BCA Projects

Dear Chair Pappas and Members of the Committee:

Violence Free Minnesota (VFMN), the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC), the Minnesota Children's Alliance, and the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition (MIWSAC) submit this letter to express our support for the Governor's bonding recommendations for the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension's (BCA) projects. We are statewide coalitions who, together, consist of over 150-member programs working to end domestic and sexual violence, child abuse, and general crime. Member programs provide direct services and support to survivors of crime in all 87 counties in Minnesota.

We believe that victim survivors deserve timely and accurate evidence and information related to the crimes committed against them. As you know, the BCA labs process sexual assault kits – which have been backlogged for years – as well as evidence involved in intimate partner violence cases, homicide cases, crimes against children, and more.

The Governor's recommendation to build a new Southern Minnesota BCA Regional Office and Laboratory, as well as the expansion of the existing Bemidji facility, will help increase efficiency and decrease processing times of kits and other evidence that is critical for victim survivors of crime and their families. Access to timely evidence and information is an important step in providing victim survivors with the access to justice that they deserve.

Please support the Governor's recommendations for BCA bonding projects.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Lopez
Executive Director
Violence Free Minnesota

Marcia Milliken
Executive Director
MN Children's Alliance

Bobbi Holtberg
Executive Director
MN Alliance on Crime

Nicole Matthews
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