



To the Judiciary and Public Safety Conferees,

We, Minnesota’s Six Crime Victims’ Coalitions, write in strong support of the House’s proposal for crime victims’ services funding for the combined Public Safety and Judiciary finance package. Contained within this package is \$16 million across the biennium for crime victims’ services, as well as \$2 million per year to the base funding for these services. In an atmosphere of uncertain funding, we are incredibly grateful funding has been included in this package. We wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Chair Kelly Moller and Chair Paul Novotny for their inclusion of this funding in their bill.

Both the House and Senate bills include the establishment of a special revenue account to provide an ongoing, non-taxpayer source of revenue for Crime Victims’ Services. This effort is greatly appreciated and we encourage the conferees to make this special revenue fund as robust as possible, including by amending on the provisions of HF 3230/SF 3432.

Together, our services provide shelter, advocacy, healthcare navigation, legal guidance, childcare, and more to victims of crime in Minnesota. We support domestic and sexual violence survivors and their families; we support children who have been victimized by crime; we support victims of general crime; and we assist all Minnesotans through some of the most challenging days of their lives.

Crime Victims’ Services in Minnesota face an uncertain financial future. Federal spending on these services through the Victims of Crime Act has collapsed since 2018. Additionally, funding through the Violence Against Women Act remains uncertain as the Office of Violence Against Women has not released any Notices of Funding Opportunities for the current fiscal year, having pulled down all the Notices that were posted as of February 6.

In previous years, the State of Minnesota has stepped up to provide one time funding to keep our programs afloat, in the hopes that federal funding would recover. Federal funding has not recovered and we are not hopeful that it will recover any time soon. The Minnesota Office of Justice Programs has estimated that we would need about \$44 million over the biennium to stay level funded. We recognize that difficult funding position that the state is in and are incredibly grateful to have \$16 million over the biennium included in this bill. Please support our services and the House position on funding, and help us achieve a violence free Minnesota.

Thank you,

**Guadalupe Lopez** Executive Director  
Violence Free Minnesota

**Cinnamon Bankey** Executive Director  
Mending the Sacred Hoop

**Kenosha Alexander** Interim Executive Director  
Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Nicole Matthews** CEO  
Minnesota Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition

**Marcia Milliken** Executive Director  
Minnesota Children’s Alliance

**Bobbi Holtberg** Executive Director  
Minnesota Alliance on Crime