



Office of Justice Programs

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February 14, 2023

Dear Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

I am writing today in support of increasing funds for crime victim services and prevention efforts in Minnesota. The Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs supports additional investments for Minnesota’s network of crime victim services providers, as well as prevention and intervention efforts throughout the state. Not only is Minnesota facing a reduction in federal Victim of Crimes Act (VOCA) funding, but previous one-time federal and state investments made during the pandemic are also set to end. As we have heard from our partners throughout the state, programs are facing staff burnout and hiring challenges as the requests for services increase. HF 1437 provides a critical investment covering all aspects of programming needed to keep Minnesotans safe and provide much needed services throughout the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical investment.

Sincerely,

Kate Weeks
Executive Director
Department of Public Safety
Office of Justice Programs

Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

Drive and Vehicle Services

Emergency Communication Networks

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

Minnesota State Patrol

Office of Communications

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