



April 14, 2026

**Women's Foundation of Minnesota Supports HF 1082**

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and members of the Committee,

As the President & CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, I am writing to express our support for HF 1082, a bill that funds crime victims' services. For over 40 years, the Women's Foundation has invested more than \$54 million in organizations across the state, and advanced policies to create a state where women, girls, and their families can thrive.

Our research with the Center on Women, Gender, & Public Policy at the Humphrey School is clear: Women and girls in Minnesota are harmed by gender-based violence throughout their lifetimes: in their homes, on the streets, and in public institutions like schools, and workplaces. Women of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities, and Native American women face even higher rates of violence.

The consequences of violence and other crimes, without comprehensive support to survivors, include poor mental health outcomes, chronic disease and health problems, unwanted pregnancy, substance abuse, homelessness, and a lack of personal security.

Crime victim services play a vital role in helping survivors and their families rebuild their lives by ensuring they are heard, protected, and supported and women and girls represent a high percentage of Minnesotans benefiting from them. Additionally, this bill supports the advocates doing the tireless, emotionally difficult work directly serving survivors in highly stressful environments. Victim services also enhance public safety and encourage victims to report crimes without fear, which aids law enforcement and strengthens community trust in the justice system. Without these services, we are neglecting the people of our state, often leaving them vulnerable to further victimization.

We appreciate the work of Representative Moller and the bipartisan group of co-authors for bringing this bill forward and for their continued work to create and pursue policies that will make Minnesota safer for women and girls. We urge the committee to support HF1082 as amended.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gloria Perez'.

Gloria Perez  
WFM President & CEO

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