



**MENDING THE  
SACRED HOOP**



**MINNESOTA  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE**



**VIOLENCE FREE  
MINNESOTA**  
THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE



April 15, 2024

Members of the Minnesota House Public Safety Committee

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

Dear Chair Moller and Committee Members:

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 in support of the House Public Safety budget bill 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.

We thank this committee for taking crime victim services seriously and clearing the way for our member programs to be funded and maintained. The nearly \$10 million in one-time funding included in this package will be used 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.

The Crime Victims Services funding crisis is not over. We are currently in the midst of another 42% cut in funding by the federal government as they have failed to fix the fundamental issues with the Victims of Crime Act Fund. We are asking officials at all levels of government to be part of the solution, and we are grateful that Governor Walz included \$10 million in crime victim services money in his budget, and that this committee is honoring that request by including money for crime victim services in their omnibus bill.

Crime Victims Services are a critical core function of Minnesota's state government due to the integral and vital services they provide to ensure public safety. Minnesota has an obligation to protect people from crime and violence. We are counting on the continued support of the



MINNESOTA CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE



legislature to sustain these critical public safety operations and prioritize the safety of adult and child survivors, and communities across Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Guadalupe Lopez  
Executive Director  
Violence Free Minnesota

PaHoua Vang  
Interim Executive Director  
MN Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Bobbi Holtberg  
Executive Director  
MN Alliance on Crime

Nicole Matthews  
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MN Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition

Cinnamon Bankey  
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Marcia Milliken  
Executive Director  
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