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LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR CRIME VICTIM SERVICES FUNDING

April 15, 2024

To: Members of the Minnesota Senate & House of Representatives,

The Minnesota legislature has an opportunity to meaningfully invest in critical services for crime victims. The \$20 million proposal from HF 3398 / SF 3447 offers much-needed support that will make Minnesota safer, so that domestic and sexual violence programs can have the resources they require.

The Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board supports the Crime Victim Services bill. We urge you to allocate funding for crime victim services.

This bill and its proposed appropriation has widespread coalition support. The crime victim services network members represent over 200 programs serving more than 68,000 victims/survivors of violence annually across the state.

Additional funding is needed for the underfunded victim services network:

- **Safety services** to support victim/survivors and their children.
- **Domestic Abuse Transformation Programming** to change abusive behaviors and prevent additional victims.
- **Prevention** programming and services to stop violence before it starts.

These survivors of sexual assault should not be forgotten or ignored. Although the state's supplemental budget is limited, this investment in crime victim services is important to support those most affected, including children and Indigenous peoples. The network of services provides healing and justice, and the Guardian ad Litem Board believes this cannot be addressed by other parts of the public safety or judicial system.

Thank you for your \$20 million investment in HF 3398 / SF 3447 this Session.

Signed,

Ann S. Ahlstrom

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Board Chair

Minnesota Guardian ad Litem Board