



March 10, 2026

Dear Co-Chair Novotny, Co-Chair Moller, and members of the committee:

On behalf of Violence Free Minnesota and the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA), the statewide coalitions of over 90 member programs working to end relationship abuse and sexual violence, we are writing to express our strong support of H.F. 3825. This bill enhances protections for survivors of crime and helps ensure that their voices are heard throughout the course of the criminal-legal process.

Survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and other violent crimes often experience ongoing trauma long after an incident occurs. The legal process can cause survivors to feel isolated and uncertain, especially when they are unaware of plea negotiations or sentencing for the person who harmed them. While the legal system aims to deliver justice, the road is often complex and difficult for survivors to navigate. Being notified about plea hearings, sentencing, and other court proceedings is essential to their safety, well-being, and sense of justice.

Advocates often hear about how the lack of communication and confusion around the process can compound survivors' trauma or lead them to disengage altogether. H.F. 3825 amplifies survivors' autonomy by requiring courts to confirm that victims have been notified of hearings, ensuring that they have explicit and clear opportunities to submit impact statements and participate in proceedings that directly affect them.

Violence Free Minnesota and MNCASA strongly urge the House Public Safety Committee to support and pass this legislation. This bill is a meaningful, survivor-centered step towards trauma-informed justice through the legal system, assisting victim survivors in being heard, protected, and empowered through the legal process.

Thank you for your consideration,

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