

22 February, 2025

Dear Chair Latz and Chair Novotny,

We are writing to you today regarding HF 1082/SF 852 (Representative Moller, Senator Oumou Verbeten), which increases grants to non-profits or public organizations that provide services to victims of sexual assault. We ask for your support in favor of this legislation.

As you may be aware, RAINN is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization. Founded in 1994, RAINN created and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline (800.656.HOPE and hotline.rainn.org).

Every 68 seconds, someone in the United States is sexually assaulted¹, and authorities find evidence that a child in America has been the victim of sexual abuse every nine minutes². 75% of sexual assaults are not reported to the police³, and 975 perpetrators will walk free out of every 1,000 sexual assaults⁴. RAINN works tirelessly to develop state and federal policies to ensure that survivors have access to justice and healing in the aftermath of violence.

In Minnesota, 1,128,000 women and 454,000 men have experienced contact sexual violence⁵. Currently, these survivors have access to more than 90 service providers across Wisconsin, each offering services such as crisis lines, advocacy, safety planning, counseling, or support groups⁶.

However, beginning in February 2025, Minnesota's Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety indicated a 42% cut in funding available to Minnesota through the Victims of Crime Act this year, following a 40% decrease in 2024⁷. This translates to a loss of about 10 million dollars. This decrease will have a significant impact on sexual assault service provider's ability to meet the current and developing needs of

¹ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019 (2020). Note: RAINN applies a 5-year rolling average to adjust for changes in the year-to-year NCVS survey data.

² United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. Child Maltreatment Survey, 2016 (2018).

³ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2018.

⁴ Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2015-2019 (2020).

⁵ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey State Report, 2016-2017 (2025)

⁶ Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Find An Advocate and Medical Care Near You, 2025.

⁷ Minnesota Senate, Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Meeting, 2025.



survivors across Minnesota, leaving survivors without access to legal, medical, or emotional advocates.

HF 1082/SF 842 provides unequivocal support for sexual assault service providers across Minnesota and mitigates the financial impact of the Victims of Crimes Act's decrease in funding. Its passage would ensure the physical and emotional well-being of thousands of survivors across Wisconsin.

As such, we urge you to support this bill and pass it out of committee. Thank you for your continued leadership and for supporting victims of sexual violence in Minnesota.

Sincerely,
Mollie Montague
Director of State Legislative Affairs

