



## Office of Justice Programs

445 Minnesota Street • Suite 2300 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1515

Phone: 651.201.7300 • Fax: 651.296.5787 • TTY: 651.205.4827 • Toll Free 1.888.622.8799

[www.ojp.dps.mn.gov](http://www.ojp.dps.mn.gov)

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Chair Novotny, Chair Moller, and members of the House Public Safety Committee,

I am writing today in support of additional investments in services for crime victims in Minnesota as provided for in HF1082 as well as recommended in the Governor’s Budget.

A network of over 150 community-based organizations, tribal governments, and local governments provide direct services to victims of crime through state and federally funded grants administered by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety’s Office of Justice Programs (OJP). This funding provides services for victims of sexual assault, domestic abuse, child abuse, and other crimes such homicide, gun violence, assault, and theft.

Crime victim services are an integral part of public safety. Research shows when victims receive these services, they are more likely to seek health care and report the crime to law enforcement, strengthening the ability of communities and first responders to address and prevent violent crimes.

Services to crime victims seek to address the needs of individuals fleeing violence in the home or those seeking services and support after a violent incident. Crime victim service programs intervene to increase stability, identify safety options, and develop paths to recovery and healing for victims. Specifically, the funding OJP administers provides support to survivors through safety planning, crisis intervention, advocacy, assistance applying for protective orders, safe housing, transportation, accessing financial assistance, court-related support, accompaniment to hearings and appointments, support groups, and healing services. Without crime victim services, victims are left to deal with the consequences of their victimization alone, resulting in less safety and support in our communities.

OJP has heard from crime victim services providers that additional funding is needed to maintain these life-saving services. The work of crime victim advocates is difficult and requires highly specialized training in trauma, types of violence, and navigating complex systems. Service providers are facing staffing shortages while requests for services only increase. State investment is especially needed now given reductions in federal funding for crime victims services in recent years.

Thank you for your commitment to investing in these foundational public safety services in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Kim Babine  
OJP Interim Executive Director

- Alcohol and Gambling Enforcement
- Bureau of Criminal Apprehension
- Driver and Vehicle Services
- Emergency Communication Networks
- Homeland Security and Emergency Management
- Minnesota State Patrol
- Office of Communications
- Office of Justice Programs
- Office of Pipeline Safety
- Office of Traffic Safety
- State Fire Marshal

