



MINNESOTA CHIEFS OF POLICE ASSOCIATION

DEDICATED TO THE IDEALS OF PROFESSIONAL POLICING

March 17th, 2025

MCPA Letter of Support for House File 1082

Dear Senator Clare Oumou Verbeten and Representative Kelly Moller:

We write to express our support for an increase in state funding to Crime Victims' Services (CVS). CVS advocates are critical to Minnesota's public safety infrastructure, not only contributing to the safety and security of our communities but also contributing to the restoration of economic health and emotional wellness for people and their families who have been impacted by violence and crime.

CVS advocates contribute to the public safety ecosystem in varied ways. They run physical infrastructures like Domestic Violence Shelters, Sexual Assault Response Centers, Child Advocacy Centers, and Supervised Visitation Centers. They provide services like legal advocacy and legal systems navigation, mental and behavioral health support, and assistance with economic benefits. They are a crucial part of many survivors' safety and healing journeys, and their sole mandate is to support and respect the lives of those who are impacted by violence and crime.

CVS advocates do more than simply provide vital public safety infrastructure. They also help to provide direct economic aid to people in need and help victims/survivors navigate employment opportunities. By helping crime victims establish economic security and independence, CVS advocates not only interrupt the cycle of violence, but they also interrupt the cycle of poverty. The goal is a dignified life for all people, no matter what they have experienced. When individuals, families, and communities who have been harmed by crime and violence are able to overcome barriers around housing, personal finance, and safety, everyone wins.

Many CVS advocates work closely with local law enforcement agencies. Advocates can enhance law enforcement response to crime by offering a warm handoff to community support and advocacy resources. Over time the advocates and Law enforcement have developed strong working relationships with each other and those relationships have enhanced the level of service provided to crime victims.

Our state should continue to support crime victims, and ensuring programs can pay their advocates a thriving wage is the first step. Please commit to a robust and long-term investment in Crime Victims' Services and affirm that Crime Victims' Services are a critical piece of Minnesota's public safety infrastructure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeff Potts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jeff Potts
Executive Director
Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association