

March 17, 2023

Members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee
Via Electronic Delivery

Re: Letter in Support of House File 2505

Dear Members of the Committee:

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) submits this letter to express our support for House File 2505. MNCASA is a statewide membership coalition driving transformative culture change to address sexual violence through advocacy, prevention, racial justice, and systems change. MNCASA acts as a collective voice of organizations and individuals committed to ending sexual violence.

MNCASA has long been an organization advocating for victims/survivors of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation. Since Minnesota began providing Safe Harbor services in 2014, MNCASA has worked at the community and legislative level to ensure victims/survivors of human trafficking receive adequate resources and funding, and that our communities are educated and informed on the realities of trafficking in our state.

SF 2269 will provide badly needed funding for labor trafficking services. Labor trafficking and labor exploitation are significant issues in our state, and has yet to be funded at the level needed to make a meaningful impact. While Minnesota has made great strides in funding services and programs for sexual exploitation and sex trafficking, our state has been slow to incorporate labor trafficking into that response network.

The intersections between labor trafficking and exploitation, sex trafficking, domestic and sexual violence, and economic abuse impact Minnesotans across all regions and demographics. It is imperative that we not only hold those who traffic others accountable, but also that we provide the services and supports that victims of these traffickers will need to recover and heal. We urge you to vote yes on House File 2505 and commit your support to victims of labor trafficking and exploitation throughout Minnesota.

In Community,

Artika Roller
Executive Director, MNCASA

Sarah Florman
Public Policy Manager, MNCASA