



## Minnesota Alliance on Crime Testimony for HF 1437

My name is Bobbi Holtberg, and I am the Executive Director for the Minnesota Alliance on Crime (MAC). With our sister coalitions we are requesting an increase of \$25 million to base funding in FY24 and FY25 for crime victim services. These badly needed funds allow crime victims to access the services and support they need to care for themselves and their families after being the victim of crime.

I would like to speak directly to the growing needs of general crime victim service programs and more importantly, general crime victims. A May 2022 Star Tribune analysis of data from 50 Twin Cities suburbs shows violent and property crimes jumped notably around the state last year. Violent crime rates have been rising in the last couple of years in more than a dozen suburbs, according to a Star Tribune analysis of five years of crime data from 50 of the largest Twin Cities suburbs. A total of 51 homicides were recorded in those suburban communities in 2021, more than double the 22 recorded in 2019. A handful of agencies provided data for carjackings, showing triple the number of incidents last year than before the pandemic.

As I have watched the hearings of this committee's held this session and last, there has been much said about the need to curb violent crime, create laws specific to carjacking, make sure individuals who should not possess a firearm don't have access to a gun. What hasn't been discussed is the hundreds and thousands of victims of these crimes and making sure Minnesota is doing what is needed to help them heal from the trauma impact of violent victimization. In FY21, OJP funded crime victim service programs provided support and services to 14,907 abused children, 55,475 domestic violence victims, **56,231 victims of general crimes**, and 8,255 sexual assault victims. These numbers are continuing to grow.

Essentially, with an increase in crime and a loss of federal funding, the state must not leave the most vulnerable members of our communities, survivors of crime, without access to the services and resources they need and deserve. Minnesota needs to provide robust, long term, stable state funding for crime victim services and we encourage you to pass this increase to assist victims of crime across the state.