



Dear Co-Chair Moller, Co-Chair Novotny, and members of the committee:

Violence Free Minnesota, the coalition to end relationship abuse, writes today in strong support of the amendment to HF 1082. This amendment would invest \$12 million in crime victims' services funding that will directly determine whether survivors across Minnesota can access life-saving support. Violence Free Minnesota is a membership-based organization with over 90 member programs providing direct domestic and sexual violence services in every county in our state.

Community-based domestic violence services have never been funded adequately enough to serve all victims in Minnesota. Our programs serve tens of thousands of Minnesotans escaping violence and establishing safe, independent lives every year. Many of our programs sent their own letters to this committee, describing the transformative work being done in our state to address domestic violence, and also describing the heartbreaking decisions of restricting or eliminating services due to funding challenges being experienced across the field.

Since 2018, the volatile federal funding structure for Crime Victims' Services has trended downwards. This year, we have been told that our state will get a 20% cut in funding due to federal funding shortfalls. That is a \$12 million cut to life-saving services that are a critical component to public safety in our state. To address the long-term challenges presented by the current volatile funding structure, Minnesota created the Minnesota Victims of Crime Account last year. This special revenue fund is a platform for creating sustainable, long-term funding solutions on a state level for victim service providers.

One way of visualizing the impact of our services is through a yearly report called DV Counts. DV Counts takes a one-day snapshot of all the people served by domestic violence services in our state on a single day in September. Our programs reported serving over 400 more survivors in the 2025 report than in the 2024 report. However, in just one year, the number of survivors with unmet needs nearly tripled, from 196 individuals in 2024 to 793 in 2025. This represents a jump from 11% to 29% of survivors who could not access the help they needed. *We have never seen a jump that drastic.* Our programs continue to stretch their resources to serve the maximum number of clients, but with the impending \$12 million cut, together with the increasing needs of survivors, we are facing a catastrophic decline in resources for victim/survivors if this legislature does not act.

Our programs save lives from Austin to Roseau, from Luverne to Bois Forte. They provide a place to go when victims are unsafe and a person to rely on to create a safety plan and provide care and resources after experiencing trauma and harm. These are also programs that struggle to provide a living wage to their own advocates, are losing employees to retail and fast food, and are having to restrict hours and services due to lack of funding. All of our member programs want to do more for survivors, for advocates, and for their community partners. But the question for Minnesota legislators is this: "What are you willing to lose?" An unmitigated 20% cut would almost certainly result in programs closing, merging, or further restricting services. Survivors and their families deserve better. Please support this bill, and please help us create a violence-free Minnesota.

Thank you,
Katie Kramer and Nikki Engel
Co-Executive Directors
Violence Free Minnesota



April 6, 2026

Members of the House Public Safety Committee

Re: Letter in Support of H.F. 1082

Dear Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) submits this letter to express our support for the amendment to HF 1082 to allocate an additional \$12 million to Crime Victims' Services. MNCASA is a statewide membership coalition driving transformative culture change to address and prevent 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. Our coalition represents more than 60 member programs serving victims/survivors of sexual violence across the state.

In each of the last 8 years, we have seen a reduction in the amount of federal funds coming into the state to support the vital services provided by our member programs. Throughout that time, we have asked the state to step in, and because of your support, funding has generally remained level. However, level funding from 2018 to 2026 is not in fact level. It does not account for the increased costs of wages, benefits, utilities, or other basic expenses for organizations, and it does not account for the continued rise in demand for services. For example, the Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA), the rape crisis center in Duluth, reported a 30% increase in the number of victims requesting services in 2025. Furthermore, the State Office of Justice Programs has recently notified us that the Crime Victims Services Fund will be facing a \$12 million cut in FY 2027, representing an overall 20% decrease in the public funds available to support services. These impending cuts would be catastrophic to our member programs across the state and to the survivors they support every day, and would likely have a disproportionate impact on smaller programs that serve rural communities and culturally-specific service providers.

We know that the members of this committee recognize the importance of supporting victims of crime, and now we are asking you to support the organizations and advocates who show up every day to do that life-saving work. We need to identify and implement new sources of long-term funding that will ensure that Minnesotans still have access to services like 24-hour crisis hotlines, emergency shelters, and legal advocacy, but we also need to ensure that the advocacy organizations that Minnesotans rely on in the aftermath of violence are able to keep their doors open. HF 1082 as amended represents one of the many needed solutions to address this significant funding shortfall, and we ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Victoria Pickering

Training and Technical Assistance Director, MNCASA

April 6, 2026

Dear Chair Moller and Chair Novotny,

We are writing to you today regarding HF 1082 (Representative Moller), which transfers funds from the general fund to the Minnesota victims of crime account to provide grants to 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). We regularly hear from survivors who, in the aftermath of a rape, are looking for support, safety, or to process what happened to them. We often refer them to local organizations for support that is essential to their healing. These local victim services and advocates step up to take care of survivors.

However, as local organizations have testified about in this Committee in the last year, severe shortfalls threaten these services. Just last week, the federal Department of Justice notified grant recipients that the proposed 2027 budget would eliminate or decrease identified grant funding for victim services, including grants specifically related to sexual assault investigations and supporting survivors of sexual assault.

The decrease in funding will have a significant impact on sexual assault service providers' ability to meet the current and developing needs of survivors across Minnesota, leaving survivors without access to medical, emotional, or legal advocates.

HF 1082 mitigates the financial impact of the decrease in funding by providing temporary funds for the services that surround survivors at all points of their interactions with the justice system.





The funding provided by this bill offers a *vital* lifeline. Nationwide, organizations are laying off staff, cutting services, or shutting down entirely because they lack the funding to go on. Although the National Sexual Assault Hotline does not receive funding from the states, the local coalitions who would receive this funding are crucial partners in the fight against sexual violence. HF 1082 would be a step to support Minnesota's victim service providers and we urge you to pass this bill so they can continue to do their hugely impactful work.

As such, we ask 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,
Sandi Johnson
Senior Legislative Policy Counsel



April 7, 2026

Women's Foundation of Minnesota Supports HF 1082

Chair Moller, Chair Novotny, and members of the Committee,

As the President & CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, I am writing to express our support for HF 1082, a bill that funds crime victims' services. For over 40 years, the Women's Foundation has invested more than \$54 million in organizations across the state, and advanced policies to create a state where women, girls, and their families can thrive.

Our research with the Center on Women, Gender, & Public Policy at the Humphrey School is clear: Women and girls in Minnesota are harmed by gender-based violence throughout their lifetimes: in their homes, on the streets, and in public institutions like schools, and workplaces. Women of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities, and Native American women face even higher rates of violence.

The consequences of violence and other crimes, without comprehensive support to survivors, include poor mental health outcomes, chronic disease and health problems, unwanted pregnancy, substance abuse, homelessness, and a lack of personal security.

Crime victim services play a vital role in helping survivors and their families rebuild their lives by ensuring they are heard, protected, and supported and women and girls represent a high percentage of Minnesotans benefiting from them. Additionally, this bill supports the advocates doing the tireless, emotionally difficult work directly serving survivors in highly stressful environments. Victim services also enhance public safety and encourage victims to report crimes without fear, which aids law enforcement and strengthens community trust in the justice system. Without these services, we are neglecting the people of our state, often leaving them vulnerable to further victimization.

We appreciate the work of Representative Moller and the bipartisan group of co-authors for bringing this bill forward and for their continued work to create and pursue policies that will make Minnesota safer for women and girls. We urge the committee to support HF1082.



Gloria Perez
WFM President & CEO

Funding transformative futures

contactus@wfmn.org

for women and girls+

105 5th Ave S.

Suite 525
Minneapolis, MN 55401

612.337.5010
wfmn.org



360 Communities®

Help in the moment. Hope for the future.

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

360 Communities writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' services. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Dakota County and has done so for decades. 360 Communities is also the only domestic and sexual violence shelter within Dakota County. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, life-changing, and essential to Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. In the past year, 360 Communities provided emergency safe shelter at our Lewis House for 231 individuals - more than half of whom were children. Our Violence Prevention Advocates also worked with 2,133 individuals to prevent future violence and promote healthy relationships. Our community partners in public safety, public health, education, and social services rely on the work 360 Communities provides and regularly share their gratitude for the critical resources we offer to victims and survivors.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. After nearly a decade without adequate resources, 360 Communities was forced to close the Hastings Lewis House, reducing the availability of emergency shelter beds for victims and survivors across the state. This left many individuals in unsafe situations with even fewer resources available. Our program has also had to reduce the number of shelter and relief advocates on staff, limiting our capacity to help more individuals and families find safety and stability.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Mortensen', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jeff Mortensen
President & CEO 360 Communities



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny and Members of the Committee,

The Advocacy Center of Winona writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Winona County. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Recently, our advocates worked with a survivor who was recovering from a brutal assault while facing immediate housing instability. Due to the regional housing crisis, the only option initially available was temporary campground placement. This option was safer than her current situation, but not acceptable as a long-term solution. With consistent advocacy and financial assistance, the survivor was able to focus on healing and rebuilding her life with dignity and stability.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has been forced to operate with reduced staff hours to maintain core services. These reduced hours limits advocates ability to follow-up with survivors after crisis-intervention to provide stabilization services. These reductions place strain on staff and limit our ability to meet the growing demand for survivor services.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,
Crystal Hegge, Executive Director



Phone: 763-780-2332
24-Hour Help Line/TTY: 763-780-2330
Fax: 763-780-9696
www.alexandrahouse.org

10065 – 3rd Street NE
Blaine MN 55434

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny and Members of the Committee,

Alexandra House, Inc. writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. We are Anoka County's only domestic and sexual violence agency serving more than 18,970 victims, survivors, and family members each year. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. One story illustrates what is at stake. Stephanie endured nearly ten years of abuse. One Sunday evening, she returned home and saw her husband's car in the driveway. She smelled the alcohol before seeing him passed out on the couch and knew what would follow. When she woke him, violence erupted. Their daughter clung to one of his arms, their son pulled at the other, as the man who was supposed to protect them became a rage of terror. Stephanie was knocked to the floor. She fought through punches and screaming to get her children into another room and managed to call 9-1-1 before the phone was ripped from her hand. In panic, she ran to the car — then turned back because she could not leave her children behind. Bruised and terrified, they fled and sat in the car sobbing. *"At that moment," she later shared, "something inside of me just knew it was never going to be okay. It was time for me to do something different."*

Stephanie first heard about Alexandra House from police while she lay in a hospital bed. The next morning, she packed three small bags and brought her children to our shelter, where they stayed for nearly eleven weeks. Our advocates helped her obtain an Order for Protection, stood with her through multiple court hearings, and provided clothing, meals, transportation, and essentials so her children could feel safe again. She called our shelter *"a little bubble of protection."* After leaving, she secured stable housing and employment—and took her children on their first vacation. She speaks openly about what survivors know too well: *"It's harder to leave and stay gone than it is to go back. If I didn't have the support of Alexandra House, I wouldn't have been able to do it."*

This is what Crime Victims' Services funding makes possible: immediate safety and the ability to rebuild. Yet that funding has remained largely flat for more than eight years—even as inflation rises and violence grows more severe. Across Minnesota, domestic and sexual violence agencies weave together a "funding quilt" of state grants, federal dollars, and private support to sustain these services. *That quilt is now unraveling.* The proposed \$12 million state cut—approximately 20% of core funding—comes on top of a proposed \$25 million federal VOCA reduction. Each thread cut weakens the entire fabric. The result: fewer advocates in crisis response, longer wait times, less support for children, and fewer safe places for families to go. Since 2020, Minnesota has lost 179 known lives to domestic homicide. Every cut risks worsening that number.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Connie Moore
Co-Executive Director

Tina Bronson
Co-Executive Director

Ryan George
Chair, Board of Director



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Domestic violence continues to be a public safety risk in the state of Minnesota. In 2025 there were at least 31 individuals that were killed due to domestic violence. Within ten months in central Minnesota we had five domestic violence homicides: Janet Verduyze (4/12/25), Crystal Marshel (7/18/25), Falus Ali (9/23/25), Quinton McKay Hughes (12/8/25), and Hallie Marie Tobler (2/4/26). The loss of these individuals underscores the reason for this letter.

On behalf of Anna Marie's Alliance, I am writing in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for. Our program provides domestic violence services in Benton, Stearns, and the northern part of Sherburne County. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. The following is an example of the many success stories that happen through the support of state crime victim services funding:

A woman arrived with her dog in March of 2025. Very quickly she was able to find employment and worked with housing advocates to find local options for housing and worked to pay off \$2,000 owed to a previous landlord. While in shelter, she utilized many of our services including the Public Health Nurse, mental health therapy, pantry and the Pet Safe Home. With the balance paid, she obtained approval for an apartment and is living a life free from violence. She was grateful to have a safe place at Anna Marie's Alliance and the time needed to establish a fresh start for herself.

However, funding challenges threaten our ability to make these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to reduce staff in our prevention and education program as well as criminal/civil justice intervention program.

Additional funding cuts will not only create longer waiting times to access lifesaving services such as emergency shelter and filing an OFP or HRO; it will also reduce prevention and education programming that helps promote healthy relationships and avoid unhealthy ones. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles A. Hempeck".

Charles A. Hempeck, Executive Director



Office of the Sheriff

**ANOKA COUNTY
SHERIFF BRAD WISE**

March 31, 2026

Minnesota House of Representative
Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee
Co-Chairs, Rep. Kelly Moller and Rep. Paul Novotny
Minnesota State Capitol
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: *Support for Legislation Funding for Alexandra House and Crime Victims' Services*

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Committee Members:

I am writing to express support for SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398, any House companion bills, and any additional legislation that addresses both the short-term and long-term funding needs for crime victims' service providers. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office serves the Anoka County Community, and we have witnessed firsthand the life-saving support and care provided by Alexandra House. I support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services, as the work they do is lifesaving, life-changing, and critical to both our community and the State of Minnesota's public safety system.

The Alexandra House supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. The Anoka County Sheriff's Office collaborates closely with this program to ensure victims receive the care, resources, and support they need to navigate the system and move forward safely.

However, ongoing funding challenges have threatened their ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Funding for victim services has steadily declined since 2018, and I am concerned that the services provided by the Alexandra House may not be available to support our community.

The Alexandra House has consistently been asked to do more with less, but that cannot continue. Short-term funding will help us keep Alexandra Houses' doors open and the lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Brad Wise



BAXTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Matthew Maier

13190 Memorywood Drive

Baxter, MN 56425

Phone: 218-454-5090

www.baxtermn.gov

Fax: 218-454-5092

baxterpd@baxtermn.gov

Dear Co-Chairs Moller and Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HF 1082 as amended, which provides funding for Crime Victims' Services in Minnesota.

Organizations like Relationship Safety Alliance play a critical role in supporting survivors of domestic violence and child abuse in our communities. Through services such as emergency shelter, advocacy and parenting time services, they help individuals and families find safety and begin the process of healing.

Victim service programs are also an important part of our broader public safety system. When survivors have access to advocacy, safety planning, and support services, it helps reduce crisis situations, supports law enforcement and court systems, and allows communities to respond more effectively to violence.

These programs are essential to the wellbeing and safety of communities across Minnesota. Survivors need access to services that provide safety, support, and resources when they are experiencing some of the most difficult moments in their lives.

I respectfully ask that you support these funding efforts so that victim service programs can continue providing the lifesaving support that individuals and families rely on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Police Chief



Blaine Police Department

10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449-8100
Main 763-785-6168 | BlaineMN.gov

April 1, 2026

Dear Members of the House Public Safety Committee,

We are writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' services. As an organization serving the City of Blaine, we have seen the lifesaving support and care offered by our local program, Alexandra House, Inc. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work they do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Alexandra House, Inc. supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Our police department maintains a strong partnership to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence through integrated advocacy and resource sharing.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened their ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims' services has only trended downwards since 2018. We worry that one day the services offered by Alexandra House, Inc. will not be available to support our community.

Alexandra House, Inc. has always been asked to do more with less. But they cannot do more, and they cannot accept less. HF 1082 will help us keep their doors open and the lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Sincerely,

Brian Podany
Safety Services Director/Police Chief



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Abuse Response and Prevention Services (ARPS) at Canvas Health writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides sexual violence services in Washington County. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. In 2025 we serviced over 220 victims/survivors and provided community education to over 4,000 youth & parents.

Sarah's story is a powerful example of the life-changing impact our program has. After experiencing a sexual assault, Sarah went to the hospital, where a specially trained SANE nurse contacted ARPS's 24/7 crisis line. One of our advocates immediately responded, meeting Sarah's needs and respecting her choices at every step. We provided emotional support, explained her rights, offered legal and medical guidance, and gave her a survivor go-bag containing essentials to help her regain comfort and control. When Sarah decided to report the assault, our advocate stayed by her side through law enforcement interviews, helped her file an Order for Protection, and supported her throughout the criminal trial and sentencing, including assisting with her Victim Impact Statement. Beyond the legal process, we connected her with housing, counseling, and other critical resources to help her rebuild her life. Sarah's journey demonstrates why survivor-centered advocacy is not only necessary, but also lifesaving.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to stretch limited resources to their breaking point, operating with only two full-time employees. As demand for ARPS services, presentations, and partnerships continues to grow, our capacity to meet the community's needs is directly tied to funding and the ability to expand our staff. Without this critical support, our program will be forced to close, leaving Washington County without a sexual violence advocacy organization.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Thao".

LICSW, LP

Khu Thao, MSW, PsyD, LICSW, LP
Chief Executive Officer



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Mid-Minnesota Women's Center, Inc. dba Relationship Safety Alliance writes today in support of HF 1082 as amended, to provide funding for crime victims' services. Since 1978, our organization has provided domestic violence and child abuse services in Region 5+ (Crow Wing, Cass, Morrison, Todd, Wadena, and Aitkin counties). We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Recently, our advocacy team worked closely with a high-risk survivor facing significant lethality concerns after her abuser was released on bond. Our staff provided emergency shelter and assisted her in obtaining legal protections so she and her family could remain safe. In the weeks that followed, her father expressed deep gratitude for the support his daughter received, sharing how meaningful it was to know she had a place to turn during one of the most dangerous moments of her life.

We also see the impact of our work through the families served at our parenting time center, the Alex & Brandon Child Safety Center. One mother who had struggled with substance use worked hard to rebuild stability so she could reconnect with her young child. After months of progress, she began attending consistent supervised visits. What began as difficult early visits gradually transformed into nurturing time together, including bath and bedtime routines—simple but powerful moments that help rebuild the bond between parent and child.

The impact of victim services often extends beyond the immediate crisis. One survivor who had previously stayed at our shelter recently commented publicly on our social media, sharing that the shelter had provided her with safety decades ago and that she continues to support the organization because of the difference it made in her life. Her message is a reminder that the work of victim services not only protects lives in the moment—it shapes stronger, safer communities for generations.

These moments reflect the real impact victim services have in our community—providing safety, stability, and hope for survivors and their families.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downward since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to reduce overall staffing levels, transition from an employer-sponsored health insurance plan to an hourly healthcare allowance and continue operating with multiple unfilled full-time positions following staff retirements and resignations.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. HF 1082 will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both of these bills.

Thank you,

Kelsey Courneya, Board Chair

— OUR MISSION —

To save lives by supporting the journey to wellbeing and empowerment of all people exposed to relationship abuse.

Christa Zimmer
Resident, Wadena, Minnesota

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Public office carries a simple but profound responsibility: protecting the safety and dignity of the people you represent.

As a resident of Wadena, I write with concern about the potential impact of SF 3805 / HF 3801, SF 3432 / HF 3230, SF 4398, and HF 1082 on organizations that provide critical services to victims and survivors of violence. As one of the constituents you represent, I care deeply about how these decisions affect the safety and stability of communities like mine.

Federal funding for crime victim services has steadily declined since 2018, placing increasing strain on local programs. An organization dear to my heart, Someplace Safe, provides crisis advocacy, emergency shelter and housing support, legal and court navigation, counseling and safety planning, as well as supervised parenting exchanges for families. For more than three decades, they have provided essential, life-saving services to victims and survivors of crime across nine counties: Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wadena. I have seen firsthand the critical role they play in helping survivors navigate healing and recovery after violence.

Survivors do not experience trauma on a voluntary schedule.

The services communities rely on to respond to crisis cannot be funded that way either. Replacing stable funding with optional donations or uncertain revenue streams creates real risk for the organizations that people depend on in their most vulnerable moments.

Our community understands the importance of dependable public safety systems. In June 2010, an EF4 tornado tore through Wadena, causing more than \$32 million in damage and destroying the town's high school. Because coordinated emergency response and communication systems were in place, lives were protected even as the community faced immense loss.

Today, my children and I walk into that rebuilt school each morning knowing a FEMA safe room stands there as part of that commitment to safety. Minnesotans understand that systems designed to protect people in crisis must be reliable. The services that support victims of violence deserve that same certainty.

While organizations like Someplace Safe have long been asked to do more with less, there is a limit. I urge you to ensure that legislation affecting the Minnesota victims of crime account protects stable, reliable funding for victim services and community safety programs. Their work is life-changing and often life-saving.

I also urge you to support these bills alongside an immediate infusion of one-time funding to ensure that crime victim services remain available to the communities that depend on them.

The decisions made by this committee will shape the safety and dignity of Minnesotans for years to come and determine whether the systems people rely on in moments of crisis remain strong and accessible when they are needed most.

Respectfully,



Christa Zimmer
Resident, Wadena, Minnesota



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

The Committee Against Domestic Abuse, Inc. (CADA) writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' services. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, LeSueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Waseca and Watonwan Counties. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. A survivor that previously resided in Shelter identified that a CADA advocate helped her to learn how to ride the bus, use a laptop, enroll in school, learn English, and access legal support. The survivor increased her ability to communicate, get employment, and meet her and her family's needs.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to consistently reduce our ability to support survivors beyond the crisis. We have had to cut support for parents and children in Shelter, limit the number of restraining orders that we are able to write, and shorten the length of stay for residents in Shelter. We also recently had to close offices in Blue Earth, St. James, and St. Peter (effective August 2026).

We have always been asked to do more with less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

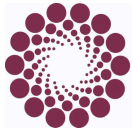
Thank you,

Brittany Wojtowicz, LGSW

brittanyw@cadamn.org

(507) 625-8688 ext. 123

*Our mission is to provide safety and support to victims of domestic and sexual violence
through education, advocacy, and shelter.*



April 6, 2026

Dear Members of the Committee,

We are writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and any other bill which addresses the long-term or short-term need for funding for crime victims' service providers. As an organization serving the Rice County, Minnesota area, we have seen the lifesaving support and care offered by our local program, HOPE Center. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work they do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

HOPE Center supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. The partnership between our organizations has resulted in many more victims of domestic and sexual violence being safe, housed, and cared for in our community.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened their ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims' services has only trended downwards since 2018. We worry that one day the services offered by HOPE Center will not be available to support our community.

HOPE Center has always been asked to do more with less. But they cannot do more, and they cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep their doors open and the lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Thank you,

Anika Rychner
Interim Executive Director



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny and Members of the Committee,

Esperanza United writes today in support of HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' services funding. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul area and across the state of Minnesota. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, life-changing, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Recently, the "Operation Metro Surge" immigration enforcement actions have created a widespread chilling effect, discouraging survivors from reaching out for help. When survivors fear that seeking protection could result in detention or deportation, they are forced into the shadows and remain in abusive situations. Public safety depends on trust; when one survivor is afraid to reach out, the whole community becomes unsafe.

Nevertheless, Esperanza United has persevered and continues to serve the community. For example, one family experienced the detention of a loved one during enforcement operations. The sudden loss of income, combined with the urgent need to secure legal representation, left the family facing eviction. They turned to Esperanza United for support. Through our limited emergency funds, we provided \$1,300 in emergency rental assistance, stabilizing the household and preventing homelessness. With eviction averted, the family was able to begin rebuilding their financial footing without the added trauma of housing instability.

Widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding and the current crisis, our program has had to:

- **Increase use of limited emergency financial assistance** for participants facing eviction, utility shutoffs, and food insecurity due to loss of income.
- **Provide hazard pay and mental health support** for staff facing burnout and trauma while navigating enforcement activity in neighborhoods.
- **Pivot to mobile and virtual service delivery**, including delivering food and services directly to homes to reach survivors afraid to leave their houses.
- **Temporarily pause intake** at our Refugio shelter to ensure the safety and stability of current residents during heightened enforcement activity.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. HF 1082 will help us keep our lights on this year. We urge you to please support this bill.

Thank you,

Vivian Huelgo, JD
President and CEO, Esperanza United





Every voice.
Every possibility.
Every day.

Administrative Office
6413 Oak Street
North Branch, MN 55056
FamilyPathways.org
mail@familypathways.org
651-674-8040

Dear House Public Safety Committee,

Family Pathways writes today in support of SF 4301/HF 3946, SF 4294/HF 4075, SF 3907/HF 3970, HF 1082 and any Senate companion, and any other bill which addresses the long-term or short-term need for funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, Pine, and Carlton Counties. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. In 2025, we supported nearly 2,000 clients in our five counties by empowering survivors and helping them navigate legal systems, access vital resources, and reclaim their voices. At the Black Dog Hill Shelter, we provided a safe, supportive environment where individuals and families began healing, rebuilt stability, and moved forward with dignity and hope.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to streamline services and outreach, modify training opportunities, and reduce staff.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony Buttacavolli".

Tony Buttacavolli
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janice Hawkins".

Janice Hawkins
Director of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services

Family Pathways is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Hands of Hope Resource Center writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic violence, sexual violence, and general crime services in Morrison and Todd counties. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

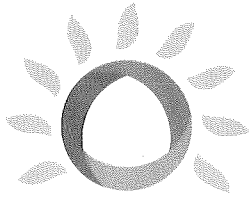
Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. A victim of domestic violence lost her 14-month-old child through domestic homicide. Her partner murdered her child while she was away at the store. This family has struggled to make sense out of this senseless tragedy. All family members have struggled to come to terms with what happened, including parents, grandparents and other family members. Three years later this man was finally brought to justice, and advocates were with the family members through the whole process from beginning to end including a mistrial and a second trial. He was found guilty on all counts by a jury of his peers. Not all trauma situations like this end with closure for the family. This one, with the assistance of victim advocates, truly made a difference.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to make the difficult decision to leave advocate positions unfilled which has impacted the availability to assist victims as well as critical outreach. As fear of more funding cuts loom, amazing, highly trained advocates are leaving the field which threatens everything that we have accomplished for victims thus far.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Executive Director



P.O. Box 146, Red Wing, MN 55066

651.301.2184 | HISPANICOUTREACH.ORG

Hispanic Outreach

Servicios a los Hispanos

Dear Representative Pam Altendorf and Members of the Committee,

We are writing in strong support of SF 3805/HF 3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398, and any related legislation that addresses both the immediate and long-term funding needs for crime victim service providers in Minnesota.

As an organization serving Hispanic individuals and families in Goodhue County, we have seen firsthand the critical and often lifesaving role that organizations like HOPE Coalition play in our community. Their work provides safety, advocacy, and healing for individuals and families navigating the aftermath of violence—services that are essential to the well-being of our shared community.

At Hispanic Outreach, we work closely with families who face multiple barriers, including language access, cultural differences, and fear of engaging with systems. For many, trusted, culturally responsive support is the difference between remaining in unsafe situations and seeking help. Organizations like HOPE Coalition ensure that survivors are not alone and have access to the resources they need to move forward with dignity and safety.

We have also seen the importance of strong community partnerships in supporting survivors. When organizations collaborate, we are better able to meet families where they are, respond to urgent needs, and provide a network of support that promotes long-term stability and healing.

However, ongoing funding challenges put this critical work at risk. Reductions in funding would not simply limit services; it would mean fewer survivors being reached, fewer resources available, and greater strain on already vulnerable families in rural communities like ours.

We support increased and sustained funding for crime victim services because this work is essential and not optional. Short-term investments will help maintain services today, while long-term solutions will ensure that survivors across Minnesota continue to have access to the care and support they need.

We respectfully urge you to support these bills and prioritize funding for crime victim services. The impact of this investment will be felt not only by survivors but across our entire community.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucy Richardson

Executive Director

Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County

Dear Legislator,

I am writing on behalf of Hope and Harbor to express our strong support for increased and sustained funding for crime victim services, including the vital work of HOPE Coalition.

In our work serving individuals and families across Goodhue County and surrounding rural communities, we regularly encounter individuals whose experiences with homelessness, instability, and crisis are closely tied to domestic violence, sexual assault, and exploitation. In these moments, HOPE Coalition is an essential partner. Their team provides immediate safety, advocacy, and ongoing support that allows survivors to begin rebuilding their lives.

The strength of our community safety net depends on organizations like HOPE Coalition. Their services are not optional—they are critical. When survivors have access to advocacy, safe housing, and trauma-informed support, they are far more likely to achieve long-term stability, reducing strain on other emergency systems and strengthening the overall health of our communities.

However, the current funding landscape puts this work at serious risk. Continued reductions in victim services funding will not simply limit capacity—they will force programs to scale back or eliminate services altogether. In rural areas like ours, where resources are already limited, the loss of even one program can leave survivors with nowhere to turn.

We urge you to prioritize both immediate stabilization funding and long-term investment in crime victim services. Ensuring sustainable funding is not only a commitment to survivors—it is an investment in public safety, community well-being, and the long-term resilience of Minnesota.

Thank you for your leadership and your consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kenzi Reuter
Executive Director
Hope and Harbor





HOPE CENTER

Healing. Outreach. Prevention. Education.

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

HOPE Center writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Rice County. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem. Last year we served over 1,400 clients, almost 1,000 coming through our doors for the first time that year.

1. This is a public safety investment, not just a social service.

Victim advocacy programs help law enforcement and prosecutors build stronger cases. When advocates support victims through the process, victims are more likely to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, and follow through in court. That leads to better outcomes and greater accountability for offenders.

2. Community-based services save taxpayer dollars.

If programs like HOPE Center were not available, counties would still be responsible for ensuring victims' statutory rights and providing crisis response. Those services would shift to law enforcement, courts, emergency rooms, and social services—often at significantly higher cost.

3. Demand for services has increased while funding has not.

Crime Victim Services funding has remained essentially flat for nearly a decade, while costs for staffing, housing, and services have increased. We have almost doubled the amount of clients served in this time. Programs have already reduced staff, limited services, and stretched resources as far as possible. The current proposed cuts would reduce the number of people we can serve when victims reach out for help.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to reduce staff, cut training and we have not been able to keep up with competitive wages or benefits in our area.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Executive Director
HOPE Center



Empowering lives through HOPE.

☎ 651-388-9360

✉ info@hope-coalition.org

📍 PO Box 62, Red Wing, MN 55066

📍 1926 Old West Main, Suite 104, Red Wing MN 55066

🌐 www.hope-coalition.org

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny and Members of the Committee,

HOPE Coalition writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. Our program provides domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse advocacy across Goodhue and Wabasha Counties in southeastern Minnesota. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. In the past year, HOPE Coalition provided 6,869 shelter bed nights to 107 individuals across 43 households and responded to 594 crisis calls. Survivors come to us in moments of extreme crisis, after assaults, during unsafe living situations, and while navigating systems like law enforcement, healthcare, and the courts.

Recently, our team responded alongside medical providers and law enforcement to support a survivor who had experienced a severe assault. After receiving medical care, an advocate met them at the hospital, transported them to HOPE Coalition, and stayed with them through their SANE exam in our exam room. During that time, the advocate helped them understand their options following trauma. Because of our coordinated community response and strong SANE partnerships, that survivor was not alone during one of the most difficult experiences of their life. This is what victim services look like. Immediate, trauma-informed, and lifesaving.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue this work. Federal funding for our field has trended downward since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate increases, our program has already had to make difficult decisions, including the loss of 3.6 FTE advocate positions. Today, most of our programming is single staffed, which increases strain on our team and limits our ability to respond to growing demand. In 2024 alone, we were unable to meet 173 requests for shelter due to capacity limitations, and we have increasingly relied on motel stays as a temporary and costly option to keep survivors safe.

Rural communities like ours already face significant barriers. Limited housing, transportation challenges, workforce shortages, and fewer service providers all make it harder for survivors to access help. Victim services are often the only lifeline available. When those services are reduced, there are no other systems to fill the gap. A 20% funding reduction would not mean doing less. It would mean eliminating entire programs and leaving survivors in rural communities with nowhere to turn.

We have always been asked to do more with less. At this point, there is no more to give. Short-term funding will help us keep our doors open and maintain critical services this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable future for survivors across Minnesota.

We respectfully ask for your support for funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Sara Kern
Executive Director
HOPE Coalition

Mission: HOPE Coalition provides comprehensive, ongoing support to people impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse and economic hardship. Through advocacy, education and prevention, we build safety, security and stability in our community.



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Advocates Against Domestic Abuse: HOPE (Healing Opportunity Provided Equally writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic violence services in Aitkin County and surrounding rural communities. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Last year, we served 483 individuals (222 adults, 261 kids). We hold weekly support groups where we had 44 participants last year. We also focus on prevention and education where we presented to over 275 students in our community.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to cut programs. We have never had to cut direct client services. A potential budget reduction of 20% or more would force us to operate with only one full-time advocate. Last year, we had 5,901 client interactions for victim services. This decrease would significantly hinder our ability to provide timely and comprehensive support to those in need.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,
Shanna Serven
Executive Director



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. As an organization serving women and children, many of whom are fleeing domestic violence and most who have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, we have seen the lifesaving support and care offered by our local program, HOPE Center. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work they do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

HOPE Center supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Ella (named changed), a young mother experiencing homelessness and exploitation, came to Ruth's House seeking safety and support while working toward reunification with her infant son. Through trauma-informed care at Ruth's House and a referral to the HOPE Center, she received both a safe place to heal and the tools to create a safety plan for her and her child. This partnership between organizations ensured Ella had coordinated support, from shelter and case management to advocacy and protection services. Together, Ruth's House and the HOPE Center helped Ella regain custody of her son, build confidence in self-advocacy, and take steps toward a stable, independent future.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened their ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims' services has only trended downwards since 2018. We worry that one day the services offered by HOPE Center will not be available to support our community.

HOPE Center has always been asked to do more with less. But they cannot do more, and they cannot accept less. HF 1082 will help us keep their doors open and the lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Thank you,

Suzanne Fox

Executive Director

suzannef@ruthshousemn.org



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and members of the committee,

Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of Zero Abuse Project, writes today in support an amendment to HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding (and any companion in the Senate) and any other bill which addresses the long-term or short-term need for funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides services to children, parents, and families in the state of Minnesota who have a missing or exploited loved one. Our work in advocacy for online crimes against children continues to be a need as internet tools can move at a faster pace than the needed safeguards for kids. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. One of the activities of our agency is to support loved ones who have a missing child or missing adult in their family. One of our recent cases involved a teen who was missing and was at high risk of being exploited. We were able to distribute posters to law enforcement in the area where she was believed to have been taken. The following day, the teen was safely recovered when the transit police recognized her based on the JWRC poster. We love good news days.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to reduce full time positions to half time positions. The work remains the same, but we are doing it with less time, people, and resources.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Alison Feigh

Alison Feigh, Director of Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, a program of Zero Abuse Project



PO Box 394
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
218-847-8572
lakescrisis.com

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Lakes Crisis & Resource Center writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Northwest Minnesota. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. We do this through our Advocacy Program, our Domestic Violence Shelter (Mary's Place) and our Children's Services Program. Without our agency, over 3,000 + adults and children would be without supportive services and resources to navigate their trauma recovery.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to provide more services with fewer staff, restrict well deserved wage increases, and focus more efforts on fundraising vs. serving victims.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Anna Sellin

Anna Sellin

24-Hour Crisis Hotline
218-847-7446 or 1-877-754-9683





PO Box 394
Detroit Lakes, MN 56502
218-847-8572
lakescrisis.com

Executive Director
Lakes Crisis & Resource Center

24-Hour Crisis Hotline
218-847-7446 or 1-877-754-9683



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HF 1082 as amended, which provides funding for Crime Victims' Services in Minnesota.

Organizations like Relationship Safety Alliance play a critical role in supporting survivors of domestic violence and child abuse in our communities. Through services such as emergency shelter, advocacy and parenting time services, they help individuals and families find safety and begin the process of healing.

Victim service programs are also an important part of our broader public safety system. When survivors have access to advocacy, safety planning, and support services, it helps reduce crisis situations, supports law enforcement and court systems, and allows communities to respond more effectively to violence.

These programs are essential to the wellbeing and safety of communities across Minnesota. Survivors need access to services that provide safety, support, and resources when they are experiencing some of the most difficult moments in their lives.

The last thing I want to add is that I am prosecutor in Crow Wing County. I prosecute crimes that have special victims (the victims of assaults, rapes, child abuse, etc.). I cannot put into words the gratitude I have for Crime Victim Services and organizations like Relationship Safety Alliance. The services they provide to the most innocent and vulnerable of our society, battered women and abused children, are simply invaluable. For every dollar you are willing to fund in Crime Victim Services, you get back ten-fold the value because the money goes to providing essential services to battered women that need a place to stay, to sexual assault survivors that need help navigating the court system, and to abused children that need caring for.

Many of the important funding decisions you have to make as legislators are complex and difficult. This one is not. From the bottom of my heart, please fund these invaluable services. As was said 2,000 years ago: "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Adkisson

Crow Wing County Attorney's Office



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny and Members of the Committee,

Missions Inc. Programs writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. Our program provides domestic violence emergency shelter and legal advocacy services to 16 cities in Northwest Hennepin County, including Plymouth, New Hope, Champlin, and Robbinsdale. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Recently, a former client of our legal advocacy program reached out to thank us for providing her with steadfast support for more than five years. She worked with our advocates through a tumultuous divorce and multiple incidents of abuse. She thanked advocates for offering support and helping her navigate the complex legal system. After encountering family and friends who did not understand what she was going through, she was grateful to talk to someone with deep, professional knowledge of domestic violence. Without the support of her advocate, she shared that she would not have been able to make it through some of the darkest times in her life. Former residents of our emergency shelter have told us how much they appreciated having professional staff with training and lived experience of homelessness. We love when we hear from former residents about how they have healed and grown since their time at our shelter. Providing safety and support in moments of crisis gives residents an opportunity to build a stable foundation for the life they deserve.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our shelter program has had to cut two positions in our Youth & Family program, which severely limits the services we can provide. We have virtually eliminated our prevention work with schools due to insufficient staff capacity. Flat or reduced funding has also limited our ability to recruit and retain experienced advocates. Training for advocates is a lengthy process – they need to have extensive knowledge about many different areas of the legal system, social services, and dynamics of abuse. When we are not able to offer competitive salaries to experienced advocates, we lose them to other employment. Importantly, many advocates providing lifesaving services are survivors themselves. If we seek to empower survivors to pursue safe and stable lives, we need to start within our own organizations and staff. And in order to do that, we need the state of Minnesota to fulfill its obligation to crime victims by fully funding the services they rely on.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Katy Daniels, CEO
Missions Inc. Programs



Serving those impacted by crime in Lincoln,
Lyon, Murray, and Redwood Counties of
Southwest Minnesota since 1981.

www.newhorizonscrisiscenter.org

Prevention & Professional Education • General Crime
Parenting Time • Sexual Assault

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

New Horizons Crisis Center writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. Our program provides sexual violence and general crime services in Lincoln, Lyon, Murray, and Redwood counties. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Our advocates have worked extensively with a survivor/mother whose child was sexually abused by their father. Our advocates have assisted the survivor by providing the following supports and services, including, but not limited to: translation services, transportation services, accompaniment to medical forensic examination, accompaniment to civil and criminal court related proceedings, accompaniment to various appointments and meetings, financial assistance for safety and basic needs, assistance in identifying and receiving local supportive services, assistance with retaining housing, etc.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program, our program has had to decrease the number of our staff, limit benefits available to staff, reduce the advertisement of our program services, reduce staff travel and training budgets, restrict the number clients that we can provide direct safety funds to annually, and reduce many more program services and supplies.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Please support additional funding efforts proposed to help us provide our essential safety services!

Sincerely,

Carrie Buddy

Carrie Buddy
Executive Director

Lyon County/Main Office:
349 West Main St., Suite 3
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 532-5764
Fax: (507) 532-3628
Email:
newhorizons@nhccmn.com

Redwood County Office:
231 E. Second St.
Redwood Falls, MN 56283
(507) 637-5570
Fax: (507) 637-3961

Murray County Office:
2433 26th St., Suite A
Slayton, MN 56172
(507) 836-6272
Fax: (507) 836-6559

SMSU Office:
Southwest Minnesota
State University
1501 State Street, FH 119
Marshall, MN 56258
(507) 532-5764



United Way
of Southwest Minnesota



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

The Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA) writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in the Northeastern region of Minnesota. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Last year, the number of survivors requesting services increased by 30%. We served nearly 1,300 survivors providing 24/7 helpline and hospital response, one-on-one therapy, legal representation, peer support groups, and accompaniment to law enforcement interviews, court hearings, and trials. All of our services are provided at no cost to survivors. Many of our services such as legal representation, therapy, and trauma-conscious yoga would be out of reach to survivors if they had to pay out of pocket.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our agency has had to leave an administrative position unfilled and limit training and professional development opportunities for our staff.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,



Mary Faulkner
Executive Director



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Pearl Battered Women's Resource Center (dba Pearl Crisis Center) writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Mille Lacs County and surrounding areas. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. A victim we have been working with for years recently shared a success story with us. For several years, she has been coming to our office for support with her divorce, for an Order for Protection, a connection with Legal Aid, applying for benefits, and for help supporting her family of 5. We were able to help meet their basic needs so that she and her children would be set up for success during the long road forward. This week, we learned that she has started a great new job and is finding success after the abuse she and her family endured. We are still a pillar of support for her in her ongoing transition into a safe and secure life free of abuse.

Widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has not been able to meet all the emergency safety needs victims have, forcing us in some cases to deny necessary assistance. Additionally, we have had difficulties in scheduling and availability in our office. Due to low staff, victims might have to wait longer for services that would help to ensure their safety. This is especially impactful on rural residents who need safe transportation to safe housing including hotels and domestic violence shelters. Pearl is heavily involved with the Mille Lacs County Domestic Violence Court. Due to limitations in our funding, there is not currently a dedicated DVC advocate. Without this role, there is a sharp decline in services provided to the victims whose offenders are in the DVC. Given our limited funding, we are unable to provide living wages and insurance benefits for staff. This makes it difficult to hire qualified, caring staff who can stay at the agency long-term.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,
Judy Pearson, Director
Pearl Crisis Center

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for HF 1082 as amended, which provides funding for Crime Victims' Services in Minnesota.

Organizations like Relationship Safety Alliance play a critical role in supporting survivors of domestic violence and child abuse in our communities. Through services such as emergency shelter, advocacy, parenting time services, and safety planning, they help individuals and families find safety and begin the process of healing during some of the most difficult moments of their lives.

From the perspective of community corrections and public safety, victim service programs are not only supportive resources, they are essential partners in an effective justice system. When survivors have access to advocacy and coordinated support, it reduces crisis situations, strengthens safety planning, and allows law enforcement, the courts, and supervision agencies to respond more effectively to violence.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Relationship Safety Alliance for many years. They are a trusted partner who consistently demonstrate professionalism, transparency, and a deep commitment to the people they serve. Their staff coordinate joint trainings and meetings with the local corrections agency and other partners to improve our collective response to domestic violence. They have also collaborated on statewide training efforts focused on victim-centered corrections practices and intimate partner violence reunification principles for supervising agents.

In addition, Relationship Safety Alliance works alongside the probation agents to support evidence-based domestic violence programming and coordinated responses that prioritize victim safety while promoting accountability and behavior change for individuals under supervision. These collaborative efforts strengthen the overall safety net for victims and improve outcomes for our community.

At a time when nonprofit organizations across the state are facing increased scrutiny and uncertainty around funding, I believe it is important to recognize programs that operate with integrity, transparency, and measurable community impact. Relationship Safety Alliance is exactly that kind of organization. Their work saves lives, supports families, and strengthens the safety of our communities.

These programs are essential to the wellbeing of communities across Minnesota. Survivors need access to services that provide safety, advocacy, and resources when they need them most.

I respectfully ask that you support these funding efforts so that victim service programs like Relationship Safety Alliance can continue providing the lifesaving support that individuals and families rely on.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Preston Windorski
Crow Wing County Community Corrections Supervisor
DVSC RNA Chair



RED WING POLICE DEPARTMENT
NICK SATHER, CHIEF OF POLICE

Dear Pam Altendorf and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and any other bill which addresses the long-term or short-term need for funding for crime victims' service providers. As an organization serving Red Wing and the Goodhue County area, we have seen the lifesaving support and care offered by our local program, Hope Coalition. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work they do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

The Hope Coalition supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Not only do they assist the victims of sexual assault, but they provide a sexual assault exam directly in our community. Without this service many victims must be transferred outside to a different city, and many wait multiple hours for this service, which in turn creates more trauma. Or the other option is a telehealth exam which takes away the personal touch needed in these situations.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened their ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims' services has only trended downwards since 2018. We worry that one day the services offered by the Hope Coalition will not be available to support our community.

The Hope Coalition has always been asked to do more with less. But they cannot do more, and they cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep their doors open and the lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Thank you,

Nick Sather

430 West Sixth St.
Red Wing, MN 55066
redwingmn.gov



The City of Red Wing is dedicated to creating a sustainable, healthy, accessible, resilient, and equitable community where every person feels at home.



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Mid-Minnesota Women's Center, Inc. dba Relationship Safety Alliance writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for. Since 1978, our organization has provided domestic violence and child abuse services in Region 5+ (Crow Wing, Cass, Morrison, Todd, Wadena, and Aitkin counties). We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Recently, a survivor who stayed in our emergency shelter with her two children left staff a note that read, *"Thank you for being our soft place to land and heal."* During her stay, our advocates helped her obtain a protective order and secure stable housing so her family could move forward safely.

We also see the impact of our work through the children and families we serve. One child at our shelter recently shared that their favorite part of the week is when local law enforcement visits to read stories during kids' group. What began as a simple effort to build trust has become something the children look forward to each week. As one parent told our staff, *"You didn't just give us a place to stay—you helped my kids feel like kids again."*

At our parenting time center, the Alex & Brandon Child Safety Center, families also experience the impact of safe, supportive spaces. One parent who brings her children for supervised visits recently shared that her children love the space and that the staff have been wonderful, expressing gratitude for a place where her family can safely maintain connection during a difficult time.

These moments reflect the real impact victim services have in our community—providing safety, stability, and hope for survivors and their families.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downward since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to reduce overall staffing levels, transition from an employer-sponsored health insurance plan to an hourly healthcare allowance and continue operating with multiple unfilled full-time positions following staff retirements and resignations.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Shannon Wussow
Executive Director

— OUR MISSION —

To save lives by supporting the journey to wellbeing and empowerment of all people exposed to relationship abuse.

April 6, 2026

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. As a community member living in the southern-most part of our state's geographically largest county, St. Louis County (Duluth, MN) I have seen the lifesaving support and care offered by the programs we provide at Safe Haven. I support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Our Shelter Director, Ethan Powers, shares one survivor's experience of escaping violence with the help and support of our programs.

"This case narrative centers on a young guest who came to our shelter last month seeking safety from an abusive relationship. Her situation was especially complex: she was young, came from a culturally close-knit community, had very limited English proficiency, and possessed minimal self-sufficiency skills. Leaving her family and community required tremendous courage, and beginning the process of stabilizing her life on her own presented even greater challenges.

Her abusive partner was connected to a broader network of individuals, creating an environment from which she felt an urgent need to escape. Communication was a significant barrier from the outset. Initially, we relied on translation services through Day One, then supplemented communication with translation apps. For more in-depth and sensitive conversations, we utilized Clarity Interpreting Services. Through these combined efforts, we were able to establish a strong working relationship and gain a clear understanding of her core goals, which centered on employment, housing, and becoming a fluent English-speaker.

Due to the tight-knit nature of the community she fled, securing housing in a familiar area was not a viable option. Despite this limitation, she worked diligently to determine how she could remain in Duluth—and she succeeded. We were transparent with her about the lengthy and challenging process of securing permanent housing. After her stay with us, she successfully connected with another agency and obtained temporary shelter, which was a significant milestone and a major victory in her journey.

She is now continuing to build stability in Duluth, having already secured employment in order to afford a market-rate housing opportunity! Throughout her time with us, she demonstrated

remarkable determination, resilience, and energy in working toward self-sufficiency, while navigating both language and cultural barriers. During a period of heightened stress in many facets of life, she has continued to move forward with confidence and resolve.

Although there is still work ahead, she laid a strong foundation for stability during her time at the shelter.”

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims’ services has only trended downwards since 2018. I worry that one day the services offered by Safe Haven Shelter & Resource Center will not be available to support our community.

Safe Haven has always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. HF 1082 will help us keep our doors open and lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. I ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Thank you for your work to support and uplift all survivors, and thank you for thoughtful consideration of the future of all crime victim services.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brittany Robb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brittany Robb
Executive Director



PUBLIC HEALTH/NURSING

320 Third Street NW • Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 332-6111 • Fax (507) 332-5932

April 6, 2026

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion bills, which support increased funding for Crime Victims' services, including programs like HOPE Center, which is a primary provider for domestic violence and sexual assault services in Rice County.

As the Rice County Public Health Director and a resident of Rice County, I have seen firsthand the critical support and care offered by local domestic violence and sexual assault service programs, such as HOPE Center. Programs such as this cannot sustain planned 20% reductions in funding which are on the horizon.

These services are essential for public safety, and demand is growing while funding has not kept up. Please support the amendment to HF 1082 including \$12 million in short term funding to fill the gap, and SF 3820 which would allow for taxpayers to elect to donate to the Crime Victims Services Account when filling out their tax returns.

These actions will help assure survivors in Minnesota access to help when they need it most.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deb Purfeerst", written in a cursive style.

Deb Purfeerst
Rice County Public Health Director



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

We are writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. As an organization serving All of Northern St. Louis County, we have seen the lifesaving support and care offered by our local program, The Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work they do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

The Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. In fiscal year 2025 The Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County provided critical services for 691 victims/survivors of Sexual Violence. Our youngest victim was 2 Months old and our oldest was 98! We see firsthand the need for our community members and the devastation that limited funding will lead to. Our services are crucial in providing support and advocacy services for those who are going through something so horrific.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened their ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims' services has only trended downwards since 2018. We worry that one day the services offered by The Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County will not be available to support our community.

The Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County has always been asked to do more with less. But they cannot do more, and they cannot accept less. HF 1082 will help us keep their doors open and the lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. We ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Thank you,
Jamie Koppes
Executive Director
Sexual Assault Program of Northern St. Louis County
327 1st street N. Virginia, MN 55792
218-749-4725



SEXUAL ASSAULT SERVICES
606 NW 5TH STREET
BRAINERD, MN 56401
218-828-0494
WWW.SASMN.ORG

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny and Members of the Committee,

Sexual Assault Services writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, **support an amendment to HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding (and any companion in the Senate)** and any other bill which addresses the long-term or short-term need for funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Crow Wing County and surrounding areas. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. We serve over 300 survivors a year from all ages, races, and genders. Sexual assault is a public health problem. The effects of sexual assault and child sexual abuse can last a lifetime. With our services, victims feel supported, empowered, and are more likely to report those who are causing harm in our communities.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to cut staff, work longer days, and cut our benefits. More cuts mean loss of our health insurance and a continued freeze in wages.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,
Heidi Fairchild, Executive Director



someplace safe
SAFETY. OPTIONS. HOPE.

Crime Victim Advocacy, Parenting Time Centers, and Community Thrift Stores

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Someplace Safe, a program that assists victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, labor trafficking, and other crimes (including stalking, elder abuse, identity theft, robbery, theft, etc.) as they navigate the social, emotional, and economic impacts of victimization on their path from crisis to healing in Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wadena, and Wilkin Counties writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because this work is lifesaving, life-changing, and essential to Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Each day, we walk alongside survivors as they rebuild their lives. Nearly 4,000 survivors accessed services at Someplace Safe in fiscal year 2025. Their words speak best: "While the services were excellent and got us on a path to healing, my advocate was a gift. My child and I were in a very difficult and unusual situation that required a unique approach, deep understanding, and the ability to put pieces together that essentially saved our lives." — Survivor. "The advocate helped me find food, shelter, and safety, without judgment." — Survivor. "My advocate is the one person who made me feel supported during this time." — Survivor. "The phone call of support has helped keep my child alive." — Parent of Youth Survivor. "I was given hope, I felt heard." Survivor.

Despite positive outcomes for survivors, funding challenges threaten our ability to sustain services. Federal funding for victim services has trended downward since 2018. Due to rising costs and reduced funding, and through attrition, we have not filled 4 FTE positions, an unsustainable reduction for programs already operating at capacity. At the same time, survivor need continues to grow. Over the past fiscal year, we have seen significant increases in demand: 27% increase in survivors accessing emergency housing; 19% increase in survivors accessing advocacy services; 12% increase in after-hours crisis calls; 51% increase in survivors reaching out through our text line. Our advocacy team triages survivors, coordinates crisis response, and cross-office collaboration has allowed us to maintain uninterrupted services, but the strain on staff continues to grow, and these reductions are not sustainable year after year.

We have long been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,
Sheila Korby
Someplace Safe | Executive Director

Saint Paul Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP)

394 Dayton Ave • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102 • Phone: 651-645-2824

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today requesting that you please strongly support the amendment to **HF1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any companion in the Senate. This money is imperative to offset the 12% cuts that are slated for Minnesota Crime Victims Services.** I also ask for your support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and/or other bill(s) that addresses the long- and short-term funding needs for crime victims service providers.

Our agency, the St. Paul & Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (SPIP) serves over 6,000 victims each year. We work twenty-four hours a day to protect victims and their children from on-going threats and terror, physical and sexual violence, and unimaginable emotional abuse within their own homes and neighborhoods. Since 1984, we have been extremely effective in the provision of services for victims, successful and life-saving outcomes, building collaborations, creating systemic change, and serving traditionally underserved populations through culturally-linguistically responsive services. We reach out directly to victims with our services, 24-hours a day/7-days a week and often immediately following an assault. Our agency ensures the provision of legal, crisis and transitional advocacy and attorney services to victims, and that victims and their families also receive safety and critical support from government- and community-based systems (i.e., criminal justice, housing, financial, healthcare, etc.). These very successful collaborations have changed the way our community and communities across the state respond to domestic violence.

Each year our agency is faced with serving more victims with less resources. State funding has been flat for almost a decade and federal funding is clearly at risk. Our critical work is dependent on state funding for Crime Victims' Services, which enables our agency to positively impact and even save lives. People whose lives have purpose, who have children, who are the children of members of our community, and whose lives have value in the eyes of our state.

Yesterday I received a letter from a victim for which our agency provided twenty-four-hour crisis services, legal advocacy and assistance, and critical transitional support to her and her children. She had suffered years of abuse, terror and numbing isolation. In her letter she powerfully articulated how silence gives power to abuse. She shared that SPIP broke through that silence, how our services and advocacy had saved her and her children, that we gave hope to replace her fear, and now she has a voice to light her soul and speak for other victims.

I ask that you too continue to break the deadly silence and cycle of abuse that effects so many people across our state. Please support these bills and the crucial one-time funds needed to maintain these essential services. Victims will receive the critical services they need to move forward free from violence, lives will be saved, and children can sleep at night without fear.

As always, we appreciate your leadership in our community.

Sincerely,

Shelley J. Cline
Executive Director



STANDPOINT

Attorneys & advocates against domestic & sexual violence

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Standpoint writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services statewide. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Since 1996, Standpoint has worked diligently to improve the legal system's response to victim/survivors of domestic violence and sexual violence. We provide vital guidance to Minnesota's legal network by offering legal support, resources, training, and technical assistance to advocates, attorneys, and other professionals, ensuring that victim/survivors have competent legal support.

Our most frequently accessed service is the Action Line, through which Standpoint advocates and attorneys provide free, confidential legal advocacy and advice to victim/survivors and the professionals who serve them on cases involving protective orders, housing and landlord/tenant law, family law, victim's rights, and more. In the 2022 Justice Gap Measurement Survey, 88% of recent survivors of domestic violence reported that they did not receive any or enough legal help for their civil legal problems in the past year. From Fiscal Year 2021 through Fiscal Year 2025, Standpoint's Action Line alone served approximately 19,700 callers.

Maria and her child had endured years of physical and emotional abuse from her husband. Maria had already contacted legal aid and was informed that although she met their income guidelines, they did not have the capacity to offer legal representation. Maria connected with a Standpoint advocate and explored available options. Maria, like many victim/survivors, could not afford an attorney – by connecting with a Standpoint attorney she was able to receive legal advice to successfully present her case. With guidance from Standpoint, the court ultimately granted Maria and her child an OFP and approved a temporary parenting time schedule. When she left the courthouse that day, Maria felt something she thought she had lost forever – control over her own life.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has lost 50% of our Action Line advocates. This means longer wait times for access to life saving legal advocacy and legal advice for victim/survivors, putting them at increased risk of harm.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Thi Synavone
Executive Director



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

ThinkSelf writes in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. We provide culturally and linguistically accessible Adult Education and Advocacy services for Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans. Many individuals we serve have experienced language deprivation, systemic inequities, exploitation, abuse, and other victimization. Stable funding for Crime Victims' Services is essential to ensuring equitable access to safety and justice.

Deaf survivors face structural barriers when navigating victim services, housing systems, financial institutions, law enforcement, and the courts. Communication access through interpreters alone is often insufficient for individuals who experienced language deprivation and lack foundational language skills. Without direct services in American Sign Language delivered by culturally competent staff, many Deaf survivors cannot fully understand their rights, complete required documentation, or engage meaningfully in safety planning and legal processes.

ThinkSelf addresses these systemic gaps by providing direct ASL-accessible advocacy, foundational language and literacy development, and education on self-advocacy, rights, and recognizing exploitation. This integrated model strengthens individual safety while reducing long-term reliance on crisis systems. Accessible, preventative services are a cost-effective component of Minnesota's broader public safety and victim services ecosystem.

However, federal victim services funding has steadily declined since 2018 while community needs have grown more complex. Continued instability disproportionately impacts culturally specific organizations serving communities with higher barriers to access. In response, ThinkSelf has stretched staff capacity, delayed program expansion, and relied on short-term funding solutions to sustain essential services. This approach is not sustainable.

Short-term funding will prevent immediate service disruptions. Long-term funding will provide the stability necessary to maintain accessible, Deaf-centered victim services and ensure Minnesota meets its commitment to equitable public safety.

Deaf Minnesotans deserve the same meaningful access to protection, justice, and healing as their hearing peers. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Gutzke".

Aaron Gutzke, Executive Director



2375 University Ave W. #110
St. Paul, MN 55114



651-829-9089



hello@thinkself.org



thinkself.org

Dear House Public Safety Committee,

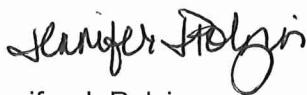
I am writing today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, an amendment to HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding (and any companion in the Senate), and any other bill which addresses the long-term or short-term need for funding for crime victims' service providers. As a community member living in Minneapolis—and as someone who has spent more than three decades working at Tubman supporting victim-survivors, youth and families impacted by relationship violence—I have seen firsthand the lifesaving support and care offered by Tubman in our community. I support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work organizations like Tubman do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

For 50 years, Tubman has supported survivors every day, about 17,000 each year, as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. From standing beside a victim survivor seeking an Order for Protection from their violent partner of 25 years, to providing transitional housing and wrap around support for youth who have experienced violence and trafficking as they build a future for themselves that is free of violence, to providing safe, emergency shelter for a family in crisis – Tubman is here to support adults, youth, and families on their path from fear to freedom.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for crime victims' services has only trended downwards since 2018. In fact, Tubman had to decrease the number of services we provide, including a reduction in the number of shelter beds from 90 to 65, last year. I worry that one day the services offered by Tubman will not be available to support our community.

Tubman has always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our doors open and lights on this year. SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, and SF 4398 will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the State of Minnesota. I ask you to please support both of these bills and an infusion of one-time funds to support this critical service in our community.

Thank you,



Jennifer J. Polzin
Chief Executive Officer, Tubman



Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

Women of Nations - Eagles Nest Shelter writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and the amendment HF 1082 to include \$12 million for crime victims' services funding and any Senate companion. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Saint Paul, Minnesota. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, life changing, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. A former client of ours wrote this letter to us, "When I first came to the shelter I was so depressed I stayed to myself & I cried myself to sleep sometimes. My esteem was at its lowest, although I attended groups & did what was required of me to do for my stay here. I kept to myself a lot, didn't talk much and wanted to be alone most days. As I attended each group session I started to loosen up around people & talking about my feelings with perfect strangers. Each day pretty much went the same & as time went on I learned to start loving myself more & more and communicating with others. The staff was so nice to me and helped me in so many, many ways. I can't disclose how they helped me, but it changed my life for the better. If it wasn't for the staff at Women of Nations, I don't know where or what I would do, but with that being said I am so proud of all the accomplishments I have done. As I say goodbye to everyone at Women of Nations it will be very emotional for me because I've come to love the ladies (staff) and some of the other residents here. Thank you Women of Nations for everything you'll have bestowed upon me. Thank you for putting up with me for such a long time. I truly & deeply appreciate you guys from my heart. Love, T."

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program, our program has had to reduce staffing levels and streamline operations in order to continue providing essential services with fewer resources.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help keep our doors open this year. Long-term funding streams will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors across Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

Della Plume, Chief Executive Officer



PO Box 4039
St. Paul, MN 55104

Admin Line
651.227.9966

24/7 Crisis Line
651.227.8284

wadvocates.org

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and members of the committee,

Women's Advocates writes today in support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and any House companion, and HF 1082 as amended to provide \$12 million for crime victims' services. Our program provides domestic and sexual violence services in Saint Paul. We support increased funding for Crime Victims' Services because the work we do is lifesaving, lifechanging, and essential for Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

Our program supports survivors every day as they work to heal and recover in the aftermath of violence. Survivors who come to our services not only get legal services to help them escape domestic violence, but a full suite of mental health services and housing services to ensure long term stability after abuse.

However, widespread funding challenges have threatened our ability to continue making these transformative impacts. Federal funding for our field has only trended downwards since 2018. In response to nearly a decade without adequate funding, our program has had to increase caseloads dramatically and cut management staff. Nevertheless, the need continues to grow, and staff often feel overworked and exhausted.

We have always been asked to do more with less. But we cannot do more, and we cannot accept less. Short-term funding will help us keep our lights on this year. Long-term funding will help secure a stable, long-term future for survivors in the state of Minnesota. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake De Vera".

Jake De Vera
Associate Director



Offering a Pathway of Hope and Safety to those
in Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, & Yellow Medicine Counties

Dear Co-Chairs Moller, Novotny, and Members of the Committee,

WoMen's Rural Advocacy Programs, Inc. (WRAP) writes in strong support of SF 3805/HF3801, SF 3432/HF 3230, SF 4398 and HF 1082 as amended to provide funding for crime victims' service providers. WRAP provides domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and high-risk youth advocacy services across four rural counties in southwest Minnesota: Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, and Yellow Medicine. Increased funding for Crime Victims' Services is critical because this work is lifesaving, life changing, and foundational to Minnesota's public safety ecosystem.

From October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, WRAP served 928 individuals across our four-county region, including 614 new individuals seeking services for the first time. During that same period, staff responded to 2,535 crisis intervention and hotline calls, provided 370 nights of safety, delivered more than 8,000 shelter and housing service interactions to 734 individuals, assisted with 1,065 protection or restraining orders, provided relocation support more than 1,000 times, delivered emergency financial assistance 833 times, and ensured transportation access in 523 instances. These numbers reflect both the prevalence of violence in rural Minnesota and the intensity of services required to promote safety and long-term stability.

WRAP's work is deeply integrated into the fabric of our region. Our advocacy strengthens the work of local law enforcement, hospitals, county attorneys, court administrators, probation, human services, housing providers, schools, and mental health agencies.

Chief Brian Struffert of the Granite Falls Police Department shared, "When we can work with an advocate we recognize from our community, we can trust that person and the working relationship that forces our job paths to cross."

Jamie Bossuyt of Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center noted, "The team at WRAP has been a valuable partner to our health care team, supporting patients during some of their most vulnerable moments."

Trista Link of the Lyon County Attorney's Office shared, "I can always count on the agency to be a wonderful resource that supports victims through the court process."


These partnerships are structural. If WRAP were not here, the impact would be felt first by victims, but also by every system partner whose primary function is public safety. Law enforcement caseloads would increase. Hospitals would face greater discharge challenges. Court processes would slow. Housing instability would rise. Federal victim services funding, particularly VOCA, has declined significantly since 2018, even as demand has increased. WRAP has restructured staffing, pursued private and local funding to offset reductions, and made careful operational adjustments to maintain 24-hour crisis response coverage across four counties. Continued instability is not sustainable.

Short-term funding will help maintain crisis response and core advocacy services this year. Long-term funding will provide the stability necessary to ensure survivors in Greater Minnesota have access to consistent, trauma informed services. As **Yellow Medicine County Administrator Angie Steinbach** stated, "WRAP is an invaluable resource in our county. Their impact is felt every day, and we are better for it."

Survivor safety should not depend on geography or unstable funding cycles. We respectfully ask for your support funding for crime victims' services. Thank you for your leadership and commitment to crime victims and public safety across Minnesota.

Sincerely,


Becci ten Bensel
WRAP Executive Director


Tony Rolling
WRAP Board Chair

Lincoln/Lyon County
700 N. 7th Street
P. O. Box 1193
Marshall, MN 56258-1193

Redwood County
243 2nd Street E.
Redwood Falls MN 56283

Yellow Medicine County
MN West Tech College
1593 11th Ave, RM 260
Granite Falls, MN 56241



RICE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jesse J. Thomas, Sheriff • Joe Yetzer, Chief Deputy



50 East View Drive, Faribault, MN 55021 • 507-334-6010 • Fax 507-334-0268

April 3rd, 2026

Subject: Letter of support for the HOPE Center

To the Members of the House Public Safety Committee:

I am writing to express sincere appreciation and gratitude for all the work that the HOPE Center does for communities in Rice County. The HOPE Center has a very important role in helping keep our community members safe by providing much needed services for people during challenging times. They have helped educate and create ways for public safety agencies to best serve victims of domestic violence and other crimes. The HOPE Center employees always work collaboratively with our law enforcement agency, making a strong partnership over the past several years. I have been part of interactions with HOPE Center employees during calls for service when victims are in times of need, during regular Blueprint meetings involving all partners, and during times of reflection of how we all do things in hopes to make areas better. The Hope Center has also helped educate and train our Deputies on how best to respond to domestic violence situations, correctly use the Blueprint protocol, properly gather evidence, focus on key areas in their report writing, and to focus on certain areas of follow up to be as thorough as they can during case investigations. I feel that the HOPE Center is an essential service in Rice County. I know they are always there to partner with Rice County law enforcement to help navigate difficult cases and best serve those in need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul LaRoche".

Paul LaRoche, Captain
Rice County Sheriff's Office