



MINNESOTA  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE



To the Minnesota Legislature:

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

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

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

CVS advocates help more than just victims/survivors. Often, victims and survivors of crime have entire families in need of advocacy, safety, and respect. CVS advocates help with that. Many CVS advocates used to be clients of a CVS program. When survivors experience support, they often are inspired to start a career as an advocate supporting other survivors. This leads to a cascade of survivors helping and creating careers for other survivors.

Federal investment in CVS providers has collapsed since 2017. The amount of federal money being provided to CVS providers was lower in Fiscal Year 2023 than in Fiscal Year 2015, and investment has continued dropping. Demand for advocacy services has only risen since the pandemic. At one Domestic Violence Shelter, the turnaway rate for otherwise eligible clients is 78% due primarily to a lack of available beds. These programs are unable to provide any more services at their current level of resources, even as those services are desperately needed.

Programs are experiencing hiring freezes, wage freezes, reductions in benefits, and the loss of staff due to funding shortages. We cannot fail to invest in these services - and in survivors.

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

Sincerely,

**Cinnamon Bankey**

Executive Director

Mending the Sacred Hoop

**Nicole Matthews**

Executive Director

Minnesota Indigenous Women's Sexual  
Assault Coalition

**Kenosha Alexander**

Interim Executive Director

Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault

**Marcia Milliken**

Executive Director

Minnesota Children's Alliance

**Guadalupe Lopez**

Executive Director

Violence Free Minnesota

**Bobbi Holtberg**

Executive Director

Minnesota Alliance on Crime

## **Organizational Signatures**

### **Otter Tail County Attorney's Office**

Michelle Eldien  
Otter Tail County Attorney  
Otter Tail County, MN

### **Nickelmore & Ellig, P.A.**

Joe Ellig  
City Prosecutor  
Fergus Falls, MN

### **Women Empowered MN Service Corporation**

Veronica Hardaway  
CEO  
St. Paul, MN

### **Wilkin County Health and Human Services**

Becky Tripp  
County Health and Human Services  
Director  
Wilkin County, MN

### **YWCA Mankato**

Ceceli Bidelman  
Executive Director  
Mankato, MN

### **Nicollet County Attorney**

Michelle Zender Fischer  
Nicollet County Attorney  
Nicollet County, MN

### **Partners for Affordable Housing**

Trisha Anderson  
Executive Director  
Mankato, MN

### **Big Stone County Family Services**

Jennifer Warnock  
Social Worker  
Ortonville, MN

### **MRCI**

Marcia Highum  
Director of Public Support Programs  
Mankato and Owatonna, MN

### **Alexandria Police Department**

Kevin Guenther  
Police Captain  
Alexandria, MN

### **Greater Mankato Area United Way**

Sarah Buesing  
Community Impact Director  
Mankato, MN

### **Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee**

David Boehnke  
Lead Organizer

### **Minneapolis NAACP**

Raj S  
Co-Chair  
Minneapolis, MN

### **West Central Minnesota Communities Action**

Amber Holmstrom  
Family and Community Services Director  
Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, and  
Traverse Counties

### **First Congregational UCC of Grand Marais**

Rev. Enno Limvere  
Pastor  
Grand Marais, MN

### **New Justice Project MN**

Nelle Rivers  
Organizer  
Twin Cities, MN

**Until We Are All Free Movement**

Kahlee Griffey  
Executive Director  
Minneapolis, MN

**Minnesota Freedom Fund**

Danielle Matthias  
Senior Organizer  
Twin Cities, MN

**Women's Foundation of Minnesota**

Sara Gangelhoff  
Director of Advocacy and Innovation  
Minneapolis, MN

**Young Women's Initiative Cabinet**

Ely Zeimet  
Youth Advocate  
Minneapolis, MN

**Hennepin County Attorney's Office**

Mary Moriarty  
County Attorney  
Hennepin County, MN

**Mankato Economic Development Authority**

Nancy Bokelman  
Associate Director of Housing and  
Economic Development  
Mankato, MN

**Itasca County Attorney's Office**

Becky Fideldy  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
Itasca County, MN

**Children's Museum of Southern Minnesota**

Kim Kleven  
VP of Play and Learning  
Mankato, MN

**National Association of Social Workers,  
Minnesota Chapter**

Karen Goodenough  
Executive Director  
Backus, MN

**City of Mankato**

Susan Arntz  
City Manager  
Mankato, MN

**Mankato Public Safety**

Jeremy Clifton  
Director/Chief of Public Safety Fire/Police  
Mankato, MN

**YWCA Duluth**

Savannah Swanson  
Policy and Advocacy Director  
Mankato, MN

**Phyllis Wheatley Community Center**

Katy Nelson  
Senior Director of Development and  
Communications  
Minneapolis, MN

**Yellow Medicine County Family Service Center**

Rae Ann Keeler-Aus  
Director  
Granite Falls, MN

**Trans Northland**

Sean Hayes  
Executive Director,  
Duluth, MN

**Morrison County Attorney's Office**

Brian Middendorf  
County Attorney  
Little Falls, MN

**Chemical Health Coalition of Yellow  
Medicine County**

Jeremy Radtke  
Granite Falls, MN

**Cook County Sheriff's Office**

Leif Lunde  
Chief Deputy Sheriff  
Cook County, MN

**Burnsville Police Department**

Matt Smith  
Burnsville Police Deputy Chief  
Burnsville, MN

**Lakeville Police Department**

Brad Paulson  
Chief of Police  
Lakeville, MN

**Dakota County Sheriff's Office**

Joe Leko  
Sheriff  
Dakota County, MN

**Mendota Heights Police Department**

Kelly McCarthy  
Chief of Police  
Mendota Heights, MN

**Eagan Police Department**

Roger New  
Chief of Police  
Eagan, MN

**Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa**

Anna Deschampe  
Grand Portage, MN

**Apple Valley Police Department**

Nick Francis  
Chief of Police  
Apple Valley, MN

**Lyon County Sheriff's Office**

Eric Wallen  
Sheriff  
Lyon County, MN

**Individual Sign-Ons**

**Alvin Peters**

Chair of the Board  
Hands of Hope Resource Center  
Browerville, MN

**Kim DeZurik**

Vice Chair of the Board  
Hands of Hope Resource Center  
Little Falls, MN

**Annie McKizzie**

Food Shelf Coordinator  
Minneapolis, MN

**Chelsea Beaver**

Assistant County Attorney  
Stearns County, MN

**Roberta Frahm**

Probation Agent  
Stearns County, MN

**Julie Sievert**

Senior Tax Specialist  
Little Falls, MN

**Kelly Wencil**

Marketing and PR Manager  
PrimeWest Health  
Alexandria, MN

**Josiah Smalley**

Housing Resource Specialist  
Mankato, MN

**Rachel Hanson**

Attorney  
Hanson & Moen Law  
Fargo-Moorhead Area

**Gretchen Pederson**

County Disability Waiver Case Manager  
Granite Falls, MN

**Stacy Pigue**

Child Protection Specialist  
Clay County, MN

**Reanna Milbrett**

Social Worker  
Mankato, MN

**Courtney Prokofieff**

Outreach Representative  
Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge  
Minneapolis, MN

**Nancy Fitzsimmons**

Professor of Social Work  
Mankato, MN

**Carolyn Cadem**

Attorney  
Fergus Falls, MN

**Sandi Miller**

Lead Case Manager, Safe Harbor  
Lutheran Social Services  
Mankato, MN

**Melissa Geisthardt**

Lead Case Manager  
Lutheran Social Services  
Mankato, MN

**Jane Vader**

Safe Harbor Regional Navigator  
Lutheran Social Services  
Mankato, MN

**Lindsey Netwal**

Senior Sales Associate  
Gardonville Coop Telephone  
Association/Someplace Safe Board Member  
Alexandria, MN

**Rebecca Schmitz**

Executive Director  
Alexandria, MN

**Fei Yuan**

Professor  
Mankato, MN

**Kaylie Schuch**

Case Manager  
Lutheran Social Services  
Mankato, MN

**Sydney Maciej**

Probation Agent  
Crow Wing County, MN

**Grace Grinager**

Community Member  
Grand Marais, MN

**Rose Downey**

Children's Mental Health Social Worker  
Grand Marais, MN

**Leslie Olson**

Children's Mental Health  
Grand Portage, MN

**Kate Surbaugh**

CEO  
Sawtooth Mountain Clinic  
Grand Marais, MN

**Mark Osler**

Professor of Law  
University of St. Thomas  
Minneapolis, MN

**Sarah Sigford**

Grand Marais, MN

**Stacy Schmidt**

Licensed Social Worker  
Grand Marais, MN

**Tim Desmond**

Category Manager  
UNFI Corp  
Grand Marais, MN

**Jeremy Lopez**

Grand Marais, MN

**Ryan Leng**

Librarian  
Grand Marais Public Library  
Grand Marais, MN

**Karina Roth**

Musician  
Grand Marais, MN

**Tara Bischoff**

Community Member and Parent  
St. Paul, MN

**Jessica Smith**

Registered Nurse  
Rochester, MN

**Christie John**

Programs Administrator  
Cook County, MN

**Sarah Waddle**

Grand Marais, MN

**Alexis Enright**

Healthcare Eligibility Worker  
Polk County Social Services  
Polk County

**Joseph Hassler**

Pastor and volunteer Police Chaplain  
Mapleton, MN

**Karen Egge**

Educator and Coach  
Growing Love Project LLC  
St. Paul, MN

**Serina Aubrect**

Naturopathic Physician and Nutritionist  
Minneapolis, MN

**Rebecka VanderWerf**

Assistant County Attorney  
Mille Lacs County, MN

**Samantha Gonzalez Longley**

Community Educator  
Brooklyn Park, MN

**Mary Jo Sandretsky**

Sales  
RR Donnelly and Sons  
Minneapolis, MN

**Molly Fox**

Lead Social Worker  
North Mankato, MN

**Hannah Van Otterloo**

School Social Worker  
North Mankato, MN

**Desirey Trulove**

Certified Peer Recovery Specialist  
Mankato, MN

**Olivia Oeltjen**

School Social Worker  
Mankato Public Schools  
Blue Earth County, MN

**James Sellers**

Partner Operations Specialist  
2nd Harvest Heartland  
Minneapolis, MN

**Patrick Clark**

School Social Worker  
Mankato Area Public Schools  
Mankato, MN

**Jacob Rux**

School Social Worker  
Mankato, MN

**Anastasia Carter**

School Social Worker  
Mankato Area Public Schools  
Mankato, MN

**Brooke Rheault**

Juvenile Case Administrator  
Red Wing, MN

**Tiana Iverson**

School Social Worker  
ISD 77  
Mankato, MN

**Colleen Newman**

School Social Worker  
MAPS Center for Learning  
Mankato, MN

**Alicia Brandenburg**

Legal Assistant  
Anoka County, MN

**Megan Schultz**

Youth Mental Health Navigator  
Mankato Area Public Schools  
Mankato, MN

**Courtney Prokofieff**

Outreach Representative  
Minneapolis, MN

**Melinda Wedzina**

Chief Executive Officer  
VINE Faith in Action  
Mankato, MN

**Christine Sorensen**

Pastoral Minister  
Risen Savior  
Burnsville, MN

**Becca Sharpsteen**

School Social Worker  
Mankato, MN

**Katharine Hannaher**

Attorney  
Hennepin County Adult Representation  
Services  
St. Paul, MN

**Elizabeth Harstad**

Clinical Education Coordinator  
Center for Rural Behavioral Health at  
MSU-Mankato  
North Mankato, MN

**Andrew Young**

IT Operations Specialist  
Champlin, MN

**Brit Fankhauser**

Homeless Prevention Case Manager  
Mankato, MN



**Laura Schultz**

Therapist  
Mankato, MN

**Rande Gustafson**

Retired  
Houston County, MN

**Jodi Johnson**

Paralegal  
Sartell, MN

**Nicole Gable**

Tribal Worker-Lower Sioux  
Morton, MN

**Jacob Radtke**

Housing Program Manager  
Rochester, MN

**Stephanie Rice-Neumann**

Director of Social Services  
The Landing MN  
Rochester, MN

**Nicole Austin**

St. Paul, MN

**Jennifer Valimont**

CE Referral Specialist  
River Valleys Continuum of Care  
Blue Earth County, MN

**Nicole Wibstad**

McKinney Vento Homeless Liaison  
Rochester, MN

**Kevin Hill**

Assistant County Attorney  
Carver County  
Chaska, MN

**Greyson St. Martin**

Assistant County Attorney  
Carver County  
Chaska, MN

**Lisa Rovang**

Social Worker  
Rochester, MN

**Midori Sakamoto**

St. Paul, MN

**Nancy Altman**

Social Emotional Learning Interventionist  
Mankato, MN

**Christina Janiszkeski**

Licensed Professional Counselor  
Marshall, MN

**Pam Whitfield**

Professor  
Mankato, MN

**Dave Borchert**

Chief of Police and Brown County  
Commissioner  
New Ulm, MN

**Becky Fidely**

Victim Assistance Coordinator  
Itasca County

**Elaine Rea**

Part-time Shelter Advocate, Mille lacs Band  
of Ojibwe  
Onamia MN

**Karin Ryan**

PsyD  
Edina, MN

**John Choi**  
Ramsey County Attorney  
Ramsey County, MN

**Darian Segura**  
Front Office Manager  
Alexandria, MN

**Sharon Hendrichs**  
Restorative Justice Director  
Yellow Medicine County, MN

**Teresa Kuehl**  
Child Protection Social Worker  
Yellow Medicine County  
Hanley Falls, MN

**Josh Enderle**  
Social Services Supervisor  
Yellow Medicine County  
Granite Falls, MN

**Jennifer Thovson**  
Academic Advisor  
Canby, MN

**Kathy Gruis**  
Mental Health and Wellness Specialist  
Minnesota West  
Worthington, MN

**Tonya Hall**  
Child Welfare Social Worker  
Yellow Medicine County, MN

**Lisa Carlson**  
Associate Pastor  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Owatonna, MN

**Jayne Frandsen**  
Emergency Services Assistance  
Montevideo, MN

**Susan Bones**  
School Social Worker  
Granite Falls, MN

**Taylor DeBraske**  
Emergency Services Assistant  
Montevideo, MN

**Tanya Ostenson**  
Emergency Services Director  
Prairie Five CAC, Inc.  
Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Big Stone, Lac  
qui Parle, and Swift Counties

**Mark Johnson**  
Pastor  
Fairbault, MN

**Mark Taylor**  
Deerwood Police Chief  
Crow Wing County, MN

**Amanda Sieling**  
Professor of Justice Administration  
Marshall, MN

**James Carr**  
Community Investor  
Marshall, MN

**Sarah LeBlanc,**  
Social Worker  
Granite Falls, MN

**Jena Skalisky**  
Lead Case Manager  
Rochester, MN

**Luan Thomas-Brunkhorst**  
Director  
Long Prairie Area Chamber of Commerce  
Long Prairie, MN

**Mike Felcyn**  
Insurance Agent  
Marshall, MN

**Bee Chomprasob**  
Licensed Practical Nurse  
Sanford  
Marshall, MN

**Mary Lee**  
Social Services  
Granite Falls, MN

**Kenneth Miller**  
Children's Mental Health Social Worker  
Granite Falls, MN

**Curtis Pribnow**  
Criminal Justice Instructor  
Brainerd, MN

**Dora Facundo**  
Student  
Marshall, MN

**Journey Sieg**  
Student  
Marshall, MN

**Zander Van Noordwyk**  
Student  
Marshall, MN

**Ed Moran**  
Morrison County Commissioner  
Little Falls, MN

**Bethany Ablan**  
Psychotherapist  
Duluth, MN

**Katie Gunnink**  
Court Operations Associate  
Lincoln County, MN

**Rachel Johnson**  
Mental Health Professional  
Hennepin Healthcare  
Minneapolis, MN

**Kelly Hansen**  
Program Housing Lead  
Two Harbors, MN

**Emilie Potter**  
Child Protection Supervisor  
Redwood County, MN

**Desirae Filter**  
US Bank Client Support  
Marshall, MN

**Kaylin Kealy**  
Psychotherapist  
Health Partners  
Hennepin County, MN

**Billie Brockshus**  
Social Worker/Care Coordinator  
Murray, Rock, and Nobles Counties, MN

**Angela Steinbach**  
Administrator  
Yellow Medicine County  
Montevideo, MN

**Meredith Olson**  
Bartended  
Montevideo, MN

**Lisa Saturely**  
Monticello, MN

**Trista Mages**  
Social Worker/Therapist  
Monticello, MN

**Aleida Koestler**  
Senior IT Analyst  
Rochester, MN

**Shannon Erickson**  
Executive Administrative Assistant  
Two Harbors, MN

**Meredith Wright**  
Senior Reliability Engineer  
Medtronic  
Andover, MN

**Jon Solseth**  
Engineer  
Starbuck, MN

**Jennifer Swanson**  
Office and Administrative Support  
Southern Minnesota State University  
Marshall, MN

**Tami Montgomery-Henriksen**  
Account Executive  
Bemidji, MN

**Keri Simon**  
Registered Nurse  
Faribault, MN

**Coral Wehrkamp**  
Montevideo, MN

**Andrew Yackel**  
Pastor  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, ELCA  
Faribault, MN

**Alice Rolling**  
Customer Service Associate  
Tracy, MN

**Vicki Blue**  
Retired Banker  
Granite Falls, MN

**Laura Lomax**  
Accountant  
Hennepin County, MN

**Fatima Jayoma**  
Hennepin County, MN

**Angelia Howe**  
Leasing Specialist  
U.S. Bank  
Sacred Heart, MN

**Melissa Longtine**  
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor  
Becker County, MN

**Rhonda Drenckhahn**  
Wabasha County

**Sandra Sargent**  
Office Manager  
Rice County Attorney's Office  
Faribault, MN

**Emily Rath**  
Nurse Practitioner  
Sartell, MN

**Nicole Sakry**  
Registered Nurse

**Melia Garza**  
Legal Analyst  
MN Clemency Review Commission  
Ramsey and Dakota Counties

**Mallory Drenckhahn**  
Wabasha County

**Shannon Ness**

Redwood County Attorney  
Redwood County, MN

**Lisa Wolf**

Business Analyst  
Blue Earth, MN

**Grady Holtberg**

Redwood County Economic Development  
Coordinator  
Marshall, MN

**Lynn Waterbury**

Career Exploration, Community Connector  
Mankato, MN

**Marlene Houg**

Retired  
Mankato, MN

**Ladonna Alvorado**

Radio Host  
Nicollet County

**Mandy Barnes**

City Council Member  
Faribault, MN

**Sarah Bjornson**

Mental Health Professional  
Wadena, MN

**Alicia Munson**

Apple Valley, MN

**Jayne Paul**

Medical Laboratory Technician  
Sartell, MN

**Michelle Gronau**

Fleet Maintenance Supervisor  
Republic Services  
Newport, MN

**Alana Kallio**

Independent Home Support Coach  
Spirit Lifters  
Fridley, MN

**Janice Sinna**

Faribault, MN

**Jay Wellborn**

Corrections Case Manager  
Faribault, MN

**Theresa Vogel**

School Librarian  
Dawson, MN

**Linda Staab**

Retired USDA  
Faribault, MN

**Lisa Revier**

Registered Nurse  
Granite Falls, MN

**Letitia Thomas-Skalicky**

Attendant for a Children's Museum  
Willmar, MN

**Pam Munson**

Home Family Counselor (retired)  
Redwood Falls, MN

**Tiffany Minkel**

Hutchison, MN

**Kelly Quigley**

Eligibility Specialist  
Scott County, MN

**Nicole Bryant**

Database Manager  
St. Louis Park, MN

**Rana Alexander**

Assistant County Attorney  
Hennepin County  
Minneapolis, MN

**Pat Eliasen**

Cook County Sheriff  
Cook County, MN

**Sarah Vershelde**

Mankato, MN

**Carolyn Treadway**

Retired  
Faribault, MN

**Windy Torre**

(Last job title) Court Operations Associate  
Redwood Falls, MN

**Kasey Golombiecki**

Mankato, MN

**Mitchell Golombiecki**

Production Planning Manager  
Owatonna, MN

**Sara Caron**

Theater  
Faribault, MN

**Rachael Gretz**

Dental Hygienist  
Woodview Dental  
North Mankato/New Ulm, MN

**Donna Quick**

Retired  
Nicollet County, MN

**Lynne Haspert**

Retired  
Blaine, MN

**Brad Gruhot**

President  
Marshall Area Chamber of Commerce  
Marshall, MN