



March 17, 2025

**Women's Foundation of Minnesota Supports SF 852/HF 1082**

Minnesota House Public Safety Finance and Policy committee members,

As the President & CEO of the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, I am writing to express our support for HF 1082, a bill to appropriate money for grants to organizations providing direct services and advocacy for victims.

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, workplaces, and the criminal justice system. Women of color, members of the LGBTQ+ community, those with disabilities, and Native American women face even higher rates of violence. We encourage you to read our [2024 Status of Women and Girls+ report](#) to get a full picture of safety issues women, girls and gender-expansive people face in our state.

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, lost economic productivity, and a lack of personal security.

From 2023 to 2024, there has been an over 40 percent drop in funding for these programs. Crime victim services play a vital role in helping survivors rebuild their lives by ensuring they are heard, protected, and supported. Additionally, grants fund the tireless, difficult work done by those 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 women, girls, and gender-expansive people in our state, often leaving them vulnerable to further victimization.

We appreciate the work of Representative Moller and the co-authors of HF 1082 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 you to support HF 1082.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gloria Perez'.

Gloria Perez  
President & CEO

**Funding transformative futures  
for women and girls+**

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