



Office of the State's Attorney

March 2, 2023

Senator Dick Dever, Chair
North Dakota Senate Appropriations Committee
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Senator Dever and Members of the Appropriations Committee,

As state's attorney for Grand Forks County, I have worked with the Community Violence Intervention Center's (CVIC's) crime victim witness team for several years. This team provides advocacy and emotional support to victims of crime. Our relationship throughout the past 10 years, in particular, has enabled us to serve more than twice the victims we did in 2011. In 2022, 1,393 victims and witnesses of crime received case information and support through criminal proceedings, the largest number served in a single year, to-date, and a 14% increase from 2021. CVIC's victim witness specialists attended more than 1,600 court hearings with or on behalf of crime victims in 2022.

We've also appreciated CVIC's support of domestic violence court and violence intervention in its work with those who use violence. More than 200 men and women participated in New Choices, domestic violence intervention programming, which addresses offenders' use of violence and holds them accountable for causing harm to others. Collectively, these participants are parents of more than 300 children. In reviewing call data two years post completion, we are fortunate in Grand Forks County to experience a 74% reduction in 911 calls for participants who complete the program.

Of the 200 participants, 156 were also enrolled in domestic violence court, a specialized post-sentencing review court, which works in tandem to hold individuals accountable, monitor their sentencing progress and encourage successful completion.

Please consider additional state resources to enable CVIC to continue supporting this important work on behalf of both victims and those who use violence.

Sincerely,

Haley Wamstad
Grand Forks County State's Attorney