



Office of the State's Attorney

January 30, 2025

Rep. Jon Nelson, Chairman
North Dakota Legislature
House Appropriations Committee/Human Resources Division
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Dear Chairman Nelson and Members of the House Appropriations/HR Division,

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 has enabled us to serve a growing need for crime victims in Grand Forks County, which reached record nearly 1,500 individuals in 2024. Of the 1,499 victims served, roughly one-third of them are domestic & sexual assault survivors. CVIC's victim witness specialists attended 1,853 court hearings with or on behalf of crime victims and arranged and attended 339 meetings between crime victims and prosecutors.

We've also appreciated CVIC's support of domestic violence court and violence intervention in its work with those who use violence. In 2024, CVIC served 164 men and women through 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 addition, 92 participants were also ordered into Domestic Violence Court, the specialized post-sentencing review court that works to hold individuals accountable, monitor sentencing progress, and encourage successful completion. The New Choices partner contact reached out to 125 partners of New Choices participants to keep them informed of the participant's status and provide information about CVIC services. Of the partners contacted, 54 received CVIC advocacy services.

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