

Caucus Platform Resolutions

CAUCUS RESOLUTION: State and federal funding for victim services

Victim service programs often lack the resources to meet victims' most basic needs and almost all of them—including programs in Iowa—have experienced an increased demand for services. State and federal funding will provide important and much needed resources for organizations that serve survivors and lead prevention efforts in their communities. In order to ensure adequate funding for Iowa's 24 victim service programs, be it resolved that we support:

1. A permanent line item in the Iowa state budget allocating funding for victim services at \$6.7 million or more.
 2. Federal funding for the Sexual Assault Services Program at the Office on Violence Against Women at \$60 million and the Rape Prevention & Education Program at the CDC Injury Center at \$100 million.
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CAUCUS RESOLUTION: Preventing sexual harassment, abuse, and assaultⁱ

In order to prevent sexual harassment, abuse, and assault, be it resolved that we support:

1. A research-based and comprehensive state strategy to reduce sexual victimization from occurring in the first place that will:
 - a. Strengthen economic supports for women and families to address poverty, economic security, and power imbalances between women and men.
 - b. Ensure access to affordable quality childcare, which is critical to ensure women can remain in and contribute substantially to the workforce. This will improve women's economic conditions and promote family stability.
 - c. Make paid family and medical leave a reality for our most vulnerable citizens. When life events occur, women and children can become vulnerable to financial, employment, and housing instability—all of which can increase their risk of sexual violence victimization.
 - d. Establish strong workplace protections that address risk factors for sexual harassment. Evidence shows that having formal, written grievance procedures protect people from predatory harassment.
 2. Expand middle school and high school health education curricula to include information about consent and dating violence. Iowa's health education curricula needs to be updated to include information about consent and dating violence, with an emphasis on developing the skills necessary to form healthy relationships free from violence, coercion, and intimidation.
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CAUCUS RESOLUTION: Eliminating the statute of limitations for sexual assault

The impacts of sexual abuse and assault do not go away after 10 or 15 years, and neither should the penalty. Therefore, be it resolved that we support the elimination of the civil and criminal statute of limitations for sexual assault.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION: Protect vulnerable community members

Discriminatory policies that target vulnerable communities such as immigrant and LGBTQ+ people increase the risk of sexual violence and make our communities less safe. Therefore, be it resolved that we support policies that respect the dignity of human beings and encourage a safe environment to come forward and to promote community safety and survivor well-being.

CAUCUS RESOLUTION: Healthcare access for victims of sexual abuse and assault

Health care is critically important for victims of sexual abuse and assault, as it enables them to cope with the myriad effects of trauma and to thrive in their lives and in our families, workplaces, schools, and larger communities. Therefore, be it resolved that we support a full range of health care services for survivors of sexual abuse and assault, including emergency contraception, HIV prophylaxis, and abortion *whether or not* they have reported the crime, and in both the immediate aftermath of sexual violence and over the span of their lives.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE RESOLUTION(S)

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men experience some form of sexual harassment, abuse, or assault in their lifetimeⁱ
- More than half of female victims experience their first completed rape before age 18, and more than 25 percent of male victims of completed rape experienced their first rape at or before the age of 10ⁱⁱ
- Communities of color, older adults, transgender and gender non-conforming people, and people with disabilities experience disproportionately higher rates of sexual violence victimization than others^{iv}
- Iowa's victim service programs served 16,621 survivors of sexual assault in SFY19, an approximate increase of 275 percent since Iowa programs restructured their service delivery model in 2013.^v These services would not have been possible without state and federal funding.

ⁱ Basile, K.C., DeGue, S., Jones, K., Freire, K., Dills, J., Smith, S.G., Raiford, J.L. (2016). STOP SV: A Technical Package to Prevent Sexual Violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

ⁱⁱ "Sexual Violence Is Preventable." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 8 Jan. 2020, www.cdc.gov/injury/features/sexual-violence/index.html.

ⁱⁱⁱ Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

^{iv} Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

^v Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD). (2019). *2019 annual report of the Iowa Attorney General's Crime Victim Assistance Division*. Retrieved from https://www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov/media/documents/Crime_Victim_Assistance_Division_FY_3E09FB33BFFC4.pdf.