

MINNESOTA WOMEN'S CONSORTIUM

2014-2015 Legislative Session Summary

Gender-Based Violence:

- **Domestic Violence**

- *Working Group Violence against Asian Women & Children:* 2-year multidisciplinary study (due January 2017) that will study the nature, scope, and prevalence of violence against Asian Women and children in MN including domestic violence, trafficking, international abusive marriage, stalking, and sexual assault (Omnibus Health and Human Services Appropriations Bill, SF 1458).
- *Necessity Defense:* In response to a case tried in 2013 that upheld the DWI of a woman escaping a situation of domestic violence, this law recognizes a necessity defense in implied consent proceedings associated with driver's license revocation (Omnibus Public Safety Finance and Policy Bill, SF878).
- *Advocates for Family Peace:* \$100,000 each year for a grant to the Advocates for Family Peace organization to provide services for victims of domestic violence (Omnibus Public Safety Finance and Policy Bill, SF878).

- **Sexual Assault**

- *Campus Sexual Assault:* Expands rights and protections of victims of campus sexual assault (Omnibus Higher Education Act, SF5).
- *Statewide Accounting of Untested Rape Kits:* Reports that identify the number of untested rape kits are due to the superintendent by August 2015. The superintendent must then prepare and submit a report to the legislature by December 1st, 2015 providing a detailed plan to resolve backlog (Omnibus Public Safety Finance and Policy Bill, SF878).

- **Sexual Exploitation**

- *Safe Harbor/Sexual Exploitation of Youth*: \$3 million for the biennium in funding for shelter and housing, protocol implementation, outreach, regional navigators, and supportive services (Omnibus Health and Human Services Appropriation Bill, SF1458).
- *Sex Trafficking Package*: \$250,000 each year of the biennium for grants to state and local units of government for investigations of sex trafficking crimes (Omnibus Public Safety Finance and Policy Bill, SF878).
 - *Safe at Home*: funding towards the program that protects victims of violence from disclosing their addresses in legal proceedings requirement.

- **General**

- *Crime Victim Services*: \$2.65 million increase to crime victim services related grants; also, \$675,000 each year for additional grants to organizations awarded grants in fiscal years 2014-15. \$150,000 appropriated to culturally specific crime victim programs in Ramsey County (Omnibus Public Safety Finance and Policy Bill, SF878).