



April 1, 2025

To: Members of the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee

RE: House File 2532 (Novotny) Community crime and violence prevention account eliminated, and unexpended amount transferred to the general fund.

Dear Chair Novotny, Chair Moller, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to share Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota's comments on House File 2532. LSS is a provider of essential services across all 87 counties with more than 2,600 employees who serve one in 63 Minnesotans every year. This includes a continuum of youth and family services that build resiliency in youth and help them contribute to the safety of their community.

We appreciate and understand the difficult decisions the legislature will need to make to ensure a balanced state budget. We write today to share our concerns and request your careful consideration of eliminating funding for the Community Crime Intervention and Prevention Program. This would create a gap in resources and limit the ability for community responses that support youth to develop skills that lead to successful independence and community safety.

LSS has received Community Crime Intervention and Prevention Program funding to support youth in Duluth and the metro area. Programs include:

- Supporting youth to develop independent living skills including personal care, basic finances, food preparation, nutrition and grocery shopping. This supports youth to work toward independent living and stability.
- Youth care planning and coordination services that "wraps" holistic support around youth and their families. This High-Fidelity Wraparound program helps families build a team from their network of natural supports who can contribute to keeping the youth in a healthy family home environment while decreasing involvement in county and court systems. This program has seen great success in St. Louis County, and surrounding counties have shown interest in expanding this benefit to children and families.



- In the metro area, LSS builds trusting relationships with youth and their families and provides supportive case management to promote healthy development and to prevent truancy and juvenile delinquency.

Thank you, again, for this opportunity and your careful consideration to sustain these important programs that contribute to safe communities and thriving families. Please contact Erin Sutton, Senior Director of Advocacy, at erin.sutton@lssmn.org if we may provide further information.

Sincerely,

Alexis Oberdorfer
Senior Vice President of Services
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota