



Goodhue County
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Rhonda VanSchoonhoven
Director
Goodhue County Court Services
4.1.2025

Subject: Opposition to HF2532 – Protecting Violence Prevention Funding

Dear Members of the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee,

On behalf of Goodhue County Court Services, I am writing to express our opposition to HF2532, a bill that would divert critical funding away from violence prevention initiatives in our state. We urge you to reject this measure and instead support continued investment in programs that are essential to building safer communities.

The families we serve are at the highest risk for crisis, yet they have the greatest potential for success when given access to evidence-based support. Research consistently demonstrates that early intervention and family-focused programs reduce juvenile justice involvement, lower rates of school dropout, and prevent cycles of violence. These programs provide youth with the skills and resilience they need to become productive members of society, reducing long-term costs associated with incarceration, mental health crises, and social services dependency.

Cutting funding to this initiative would have dire consequences. Without access to these preventive services, families are more likely to face crises that lead to court involvement, placement, and increased juvenile justice system costs. Not only does this put children and families at risk, but it also creates a greater financial burden on the state. Prevention is always more cost-effective than intervention after harm has occurred.

I urge you to prioritize the well-being of Minnesota's communities by opposing HF2532 and safeguarding funding for evidence-based violence prevention initiatives. These programs play a crucial role in reducing crime, fostering safer neighborhoods, and addressing the root causes of violence.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,
Rhonda VanSchoonhoven

Director
Goodhue County Court Services