



February 13, 2024

On behalf of the League of Women Voters Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area (LWV ABC), I seek your support for Senate File 3447 (Senator Gustafson) which will provide necessary state funding to support Alexandra House, a shelter with services for abused women and children. This bill will also support services to victims of criminal and sexual violence throughout the State.

The injuries and deaths caused by domestic violence are a community problem. Violence against women occurs in all communities and neighborhoods. Monday, a carpenter working at my home shared how despite the fact his neighbors and children were very close friends they spent time with, one late evening he was horrified to have the kids seek refuge at his home after their dad murdered their mom! They had seen no signs of abuse despite living next door and sharing family activities. We really do not know...

My husband helped an abused patient find safety at Alexandra House by having an ambulance transport her from the clinic's back door, to the hospital, bypassing the husband pacing the lobby. The husband followed the ambulance but staff there knew how to coordinate her safe arrival at Alexandra House.

While serving as mayor of Andover, a young mother of 4 children under age 5 met with me to share that her family grew suddenly when she adopted her sister's children after her sister was murdered by their father. These children's lives were gravely altered, as well as those who loved them. More recently this same scenario played out in my city—children and their grandparents were home when a father murdered their mother.

Alexandra House is part of a vital community network. We can prevent needless murders in our communities with a strong support system. Millions are spent in most cities on law enforcement, and a pittance on the victims of crime. Nearly every city in Anoka County provides some modest assistance to Alexandra House recognizing each has women, children (and a few men) who need their services. Law enforcement, health care workers and educators work with their staff. With the drastic cuts in federal grants, growth in demand, and reduction in charitable giving, our state must step up.

***I want to know the time of our leaders in this field is focused on giving us more success stories of families rescued, rather than fundraising for their institution's survival. Please make that happen!***

Thank you for your commitment to the people of Minnesota!

Respectfully,

Julie Trude  
League of Women Voters Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids Area  
Vice President  
13862 Holly St. NW  
Andover, MN 55304  
[lwvabc@gmail.com](mailto:lwvabc@gmail.com)