

April 12, 2024

Minnesota Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee

Chair Ron Latz
3105 Minnesota Senate Bldg., St. Paul, MN 55155

Ranking Minority Member Warren Limmer
2221 Minnesota Senate Bldg., St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Latz and members,

Thank you for the very important work you do on behalf of your constituents and the State of Minnesota.

For more than 40 years, Esperanza United has offered critical services to survivors and their families including emergency shelter and prevention work in Minnesota. Our mission is to mobilize Latine communities to end gender-based violence.

Esperanza United is asking you to support [SF4258/HF4417](#), which will create a report investigating the high incidence of violence against Latina women and queer Latines and make recommendations regarding its prevention. [SF4258/HF4417](#) is authored by Senator Alice Mann and Representative Alicia "Liish" Kozlowksi.

Gender-based violence is deadly in Minnesota. According to the [2022 Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota report](#), at least 21 Minnesotans were killed by a current or former partner in 2019 alone. As a state, we need to invest in stopping this violence and part of that is better understanding how it affects [the fastest-growing minority in Minnesota](#). Survivors from traditionally marginalized communities deserve access to and rely on culturally specific community-based organizations to provide violence prevention and intervention services that meet their unique needs.

The research and recommendation in this report will help us understand the root causes of violence impacting Latina women and queer Latines in Minnesota, raise awareness about the problem, and support better coordination of state-wide responses.

We urge you to support [SF4258/HF4417](#).

Patricia J. Tototzintle
President and CEO
Esperanza United

[Preventing violence against Latina women in Minnesota](#)



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