

March 5, 2025

Chair Ron Latz
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety—Capitol G-15
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Chair Latz and members of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee:

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (the Council) submits this letter in support of S.F. 852, offered by Senator Oumou-Verbeten, to provide resources for direct services to victims through grants from the Office of Justice Programs.

The Council is charged by the Legislature with the statutory duty of advocating on behalf of Minnesota's Asian and Pacific Islander (API) communities, acting as the liaison between state government and Minnesota's API communities and serving as an advisory body to the Legislature and the Governor. It is in this capacity that we express our support for S.F. 852.

The Council has long supported efforts to prevent crimes and support victims, including an emphasis on gender-based, domestic, and sexual violence, and encourages the Legislature to approach prevention and crime victim services by understanding the cultural- and community-specific elements relevant to Asian Pacific Minnesotans. By providing grants through the Office of Justice Programs to directly serve the victims of crimes, including consideration of the state's ethnic and cultural diversity, S.F. 852 makes important contributions towards this approach.

Domestic violence remains a major concern within Minnesota's API communities and has been a long-standing priority area for the Council. In 2019, the Council led an effort to establish a domestic violence and sexual assault prevention pilot program that focused on cultural- and community specific elements. According to reports by Violence Free Minnesota and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Asian Pacific Minnesotans continue to experience rates of intimate partner violence, rape, robbery and other crimes at rates greater than their share of the population. Continuing to support direct crime victim services that take cultural- and community-specific barriers into consideration, as S.F. 852 would do, continues the important work of meeting the needs of Minnesotans where they exist.

We thank the Committee for its consideration of this bill and urge its adoption to support victims and improve access to culturally-relevant programs to prevent and address crime.

Sincerely,



Andrew Morris
Legislative and Public Affairs Liaison
Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans