

NAHT TUESDAY APRIL 13, 2021

Legislative Report

Submitted by Maggie Tinsman, chair of the NAHT Legislative Advocacy Committee.

I'll start with a discussion about funding to Victims of Crime Services and their federal and state appropriation budgets. The VOCA federal funds are getting cut 8-12% this next fiscal year and 20-25% cut the year after. The VOCA Fix is being considered by the federal government and if approved this will help to make a system so we do not have to go up and down on the VOCA cuts. Victim service programs across the state are looking at some very detrimental cuts the next two years. I've contacted Senators Grassley and Ernst and Congresswoman Miller Meeks. All are for this FIX and Grassley is leading the charge. Please contact these 3 and thank them for their support. We need state funding to increase from \$5M to \$7.5M – talk to your legislators about this increase so Braking Traffik which only has VOCA \$, which has lost money, will have some state. \$5M is in the budget now for Victims of Crime Services.

Safe Harbor (our top priority) unfortunately does not have any affirmative legislation this year. Next year we should look at working harder on not only Safe Harbor legislation, but also expungement. I spoke to Justice Thomas Waterman about the Rape Shield Law and he's looking into the sample we sent him from Arkansas. It is our request to add human trafficking to the Iowa Rape Shield Law. Waterman mentioned that the Iowa Supreme Court had not done much this last year because of Covid, and Waterman promised to address the issue this fall.

School requirement to provide sex abuse awareness and prevention for students, parents and school employees- Prevent Child Abuse- SF270/HF414 died.

Monitoring Massage business bill: HF452/SF388, a NAHT priority 1) Our bill HF452 passed the House unanimously under the leadership of Rep. Megan Jones and was sent to the Senate.

2) Our companion bill, SF388, passed through subcommittee and committee with unanimous support and was ready to be heard on the floor. 3) Under our encouragement, the Senate attached both bills on the Senate floor and then withdrew SF388 and substituted HF452, which had the victims' assistance amendment for an affirmative defense.

4) Without notice, Senator Whiting added an amendment on the floor to strike a large portion of the bill dealing with property owner cooperation during an active investigation. The Senate attached the amendment and passed the

bill, sending it back to the House.

5) The House does not like the amendment, so Angela is working to amend the amendment to save the bill before session ends – likely in a couple of weeks. On hotel/motel funding, Representative Mohr believes he has the hotel/motel funding for the Department of Public Services of \$159,000 in the budget.

The following bills are still alive:

- ✓ HF357, the massage therapist rules is anticipated to move forward – must have photo on their license and mandatory reporter
- ✓ HF710, child endangerment by a sex offender is alive and out of committee
- ✓ HF201, has passed the house and is in the Senate. It requires sex offenders to register in other jurisdictions
- ✓ HF361, the guardian ad litem for witnesses is alive. This bill entitles a trafficking survivor the appointment of a guardian ad litem. This is a person to stand for the child and the child's needs. It has passed the House and the Senate
- ✓ HF425, sex abuse against a child under 14, not under 12 has passed the house and the senate and is in the governor's office for signing.
- ✓ HF426, the sex abuse kit tracking is doing okay as a bill, but it needs a budget.
- ✓ SF241, a misdemeanor for giving sexual material to a minor is alive
- ✓ SF562, sexual exploitation by an adult has passed committee and is ready for debate in the Senate.

The following bills in which we had interest in died:

- ✓ HF245- Preventing Sex Abuse Instruction
- ✓ SF572-Minor Sex Abuse Statute of Limitation
- ✓ SF268- Human Trafficking Training for Commercial Drivers License
- ✓ SF33- Minor Sex Abuse Statute of Limitation
- ✓ SF358- Dating Violence Education
- ✓ SF271 -Supplemental Aid for At Risk Students.
- ✓ SF521- The most disappointing bill that died which established a Human Trafficking Task Force. There were too many questions in the House, but Representative Megan Jones has offered to work on it in the interim- need to have Carlin and Zaun from the Senate also – too many amendments