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Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault Legislative Priorities

The Iowa Coalition Against Sexual Assault (IowaCASA) is committed to ensuring the well-being of all Iowans impacted by sexual harassment, abuse, and assault. We advocate for legislation that scrutinizes sexual harassment, abuse, and assault through an intersectional lens in order to acknowledge discrimination and disadvantages that individuals may face as a result of how they identify in the world. In enacting effective laws and policies to prevent sexual harassment, abuse, and assault, we can help create a better future for all Iowans.

Sexual Violence Prevention

- Sexual harassment, abuse, and assault can be prevented by supporting factors that decrease the risk for perpetrating and/or experiencing harm. These include increasing access to quality, affordable services; creating protective environments where communities thrive; and supporting community-led initiatives. As such, IowaCASA commits to the following:
 - Advocate for safe, affordable housing for everyone
 - Prioritize early childhood education and affordable childcare for all
 - Comprehensive sex education that includes curriculum on consent, healthy relationships, healthy decision-making, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence
 - Establish workplace protections regarding sexual harassment, assault, or abuse
 - Invest in community care by supporting initiatives that reallocate work, resources, and responsibility during times of crisis
 - Expand the concept of “public safety” to include community-led practices
 - Advocate for legislation that includes gender identity and expression as protected classes from hate crimes
 - Advocate for policy reform that bans youth conversion therapy

Expanding Survivor Resources

- \$10 million in state funds should be appropriated for victim services to help support all crime victims AND amend state budget so funds support victims of homicide and other violent crimes; increased funds help address significant unmet needs and reduce disparities in access to services
- Support legislation that provides Iowans with the right to paid medical leave, paid sick leave, paid parental leave, and affordable childcare

Racial Justice Initiatives

- Historically, sexual harassment, abuse, and assault has been used as a tool to oppress Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. As such, IowaCASA commits to the following:
 - Actively advocate for legislation that ensures equity for all
 - Demand policy initiatives that dismantle voting barriers to enhance and encourage civic participation