

GWEN MOORE
4TH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN

COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SELECT REVENUE MEASURES
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT
OVERSIGHT



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2252 RAYBURN OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4572

DISTRICT OFFICE:
250 E. WISCONSIN AVE.,
SUITE 950
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202
(414) 297-1140
FAX: (414) 297-1086

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 13, 2020

Milwaukee Commission of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission

To Chairwoman Samantha Collier, Coordinator Karin Tyler & Director Constance Kostelac,

I am writing this letter in regard to a letter received from the **We Are Here MKE** initiative that works to provide culturally competent care to survivors, victims, and perpetrators of domestic violence and sexual assault. The initiative is comprised of six culturally specific domestic violence programs in our city: Asha, The Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, The Latina Resource Center, The Hmong American Women's Association and Diverse & Resilient and HIR Wellness Institute for Native populations. Right now, domestic violence service organizations are working tirelessly to provide assistance to survivors, thus it remains crucial that every survivor has access to resources that fit their individual and unique circumstances.

The **We Are Here MKE** initiative has expressed concerns, that with your support, I hope can be resolved (see attached). To date, these six organizations do not have access to data that will help them respond immediately to community crises. Further, the organizations do not feel represented nor heard in decision-making conversations about funding or the policies and protocols that will directly impact the survivors they serve. Unfortunately, they state this may result in disproportional funding that does not reflect the needs of their organizations. It is imperative that **We Are Here MKE** initiative has access to homicide, domestic and sexual violence related data and that it has the ability to partake in decision-making. The Milwaukee community is diverse, and these underutilized organizations do more than provide interpretation services and should be treated as such.

I have fought for years on behalf of services and money for programs to reduce and eradicate domestic violence and sexual assault. I have long stressed how important it is that these programs and grants reflect the exact and specific needs of the community. In response to COVID-19, I worked to ensure there was \$100 million in funding for domestic violence service programs. I have said many times that domestic violence is a cancer that affects too many, across all racial and socioeconomic borders. While the causes of the crisis are complex, lack of access to culturally- congruent care should not be an issue.

I will keep fighting to remove the stain that is domestic violence from our communities; however, legislation is not enough. Whenever we can, we must uplift the culturally specific organizations here in Milwaukee. I ask that you give **We Are Here MKE's** correspondence your attention and consideration. Further, please share this with the appropriate entities within your organizations to ensure their concerns are addressed.

Sincerely,

Gwen Moore

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress
GM/AM

[Attachment]

CC: Mayor Barrett, Asha, The Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, The Latina Resource Center, The Hmong American Women's Association, Diverse & Resilient, and HIR Wellness Institute