



...to promote a society free from sexual violence...



2015 Legislative Priorities

Ensure stable funding for sexual assault crisis centers

- **What**
Funding continues to be a major concern for IowaCASA. Iowa must renew the state's commitment to victims of crime by continuing to provide general fund monies for victim services.
- **Why**
Often, local rape crisis centers are the first place that victims know to go after they've been assaulted. Our community crisis centers provide medical and legal advocacy, counseling, information and referrals, support around employment, immigration, housing, and more. As the state works to make difficult budget decisions, funding for IowaCASA's sexual assault crisis centers must continue to be a priority of the state.

Provide a civil protective order to victims of sexual assault

- **What**
Iowa law currently does not provide for a civil protective order for victims of sexual assault. IowaCASA would like to see a civil protective order in Iowa law for victims of sexual assault, regardless of who the perpetrator is.
- **Why**
Civil protective orders provide safety and a sense of security to victims of sexual violence. Currently, unless a victim of sexual assault has some type of relationship with the perpetrator that falls within the domestic relations definitions for purposes of establishing domestic violence, that victim cannot get a protective order in the civil law system. If a sexual assault perpetrator has been arrested and charged the victim is eligible for a criminal protective order. 30 other states allow civil orders of protection for victims of sexual violence, and we believe Iowa should provide this as well.

Increase penalties for correctional employees who sexually assault prisoners

- **What**

The Iowa Department of Public Safety has requested a change in the language of legislation which gives higher penalties to those who work in the prison system and who perpetrate against an inmate.

- **Why**

Iowa is one of only two states where the sexual assault of an inmate by a correctional employee is an aggravated misdemeanor, not a felony. Many people believe that inmates deserve to be sexually assaulted, or that prisoner rape somehow deters crime. But no one deserves to be sexually assaulted.

Sexual Assault Definition Correction

- **What**

IowaCASA wants to include the term "breasts" in the definition of sexual assault, under Iowa Code 709.1.

- **Why**

Last year, the Iowa Legislature passed changes to the definition of sexual assault, to include "ejaculation on someone else." However, touching breasts is not included in the definition of a sex act and therefore touching breasts without consent is not a sex crime. High profile cases in Iowa City and at the University of Iowa involving sexual assaults with this type of contact has demonstrated gaps in Iowa law.

Ensure confidentiality to military sexual assault victims

- **What**

IowaCASA wants to extend the confidentiality that civilian victim advocates are granted to military victim advocates through the Iowa Military Code of Justice, and not through the civilian code.

- **Why**

IowaCASA thinks that military sexual assault advocates should be confidential. However, the bill that was introduced (Senate Study Bill 1030) placed the change in the civilian code, and opening up the civilian code to editing could open the door to more, and possibly negative, changes to sexual assault legislation. This is why Iowa CASA is registered "undecided" on this bill, and would support the changes if they were being made to the National Guard's section of the code.

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