[Date]

[MLA] (Find your MLA here: <https://www.assembly.ab.ca/members/members-of-the-legislative-assembly>)

[Address]

Dear [MLA]

Sexual violence in Alberta is a crisis requiring immediate action. I want to see our Government do more to prevent and address it.

Survivors are waiting over a year for counselling at Sexual Assault Centres in Alberta. It is not easy for survivors to disclose what happened to them. For those who are brave enough to reach out for help, timely support should be available.

The Association of Alberta Sexual Assault Services (AASAS) and the fifteen Sexual Assault Centres in Alberta submitted a detailed business case in the spring of 2022 that outlined the crisis of demand that they are experiencing and proposed four recommendations for enhanced and ongoing resources. For the past seven months, they have been working with government staff, talking to Ministers, and fighting for survivors.

As the government budget is being finalized there is one last opportunity to convince the government to make a commitment in the best interest of Albertans. This is an urgent situation that is impacting thousands of Albertans in desperate need of support which is why I am reaching out to you for your help to do the right thing.

43% of Albertans have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. 34% of children in Alberta have been sexually abused. Without a significant and sustainable increase in resources, there will continue to be counselling wait times. Sexual violence is a known risk factor for other public health issues including addictions, suicide, homelessness, and chronic mental illness. Investing up front in sexual violence treatment and prevention will result in cost savings in the long run.

As your constituent I value [Sexual Assault Centres/Name of Sexual Assault Centre in your community] and urge you to support increased funding to help meet the needs of Albertans. Survivors need it – [we/they] deserve it.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

[Name]