



## COUNTY OF POLK

### Board of Supervisors

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am proud to express my strong unequivocal support for the SAFE Center of Iowa and its mission to ensure survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking have access to timely, trauma-informed, survivor-centered care.

Every survivor deserves access to compassionate medical and forensic services delivered with dignity, expertise, and coordination. Unfortunately, many individuals across Iowa continue to face significant barriers to accessing specialized care, particularly in rural and underserved communities where Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) services remain limited or unavailable. Survivors are often forced to wait extended periods for care, travel long distances, or navigate already overwhelmed emergency departments during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives.

The SAFE Center of Iowa is addressing these critical gaps through an innovative statewide model focused on coordinated, multidisciplinary, and patient-centered services. The organization's work will strengthen access to 24/7 medical forensic care, advocacy, mental health support, and coordinated community response efforts while helping alleviate strain on hospital emergency departments and local systems already operating under significant pressure.

Importantly, the SAFE Center's first location — the statewide Center of Excellence — will be located in Polk County within the Des Moines metropolitan area. This location will serve as the hub of Iowa's first statewide hub-and-spoke model dedicated to coordinated medical forensic and survivor support services, helping expand access to care throughout both urban and rural communities across Iowa. Polk County is proud to serve as the home of this pioneering effort and recognizes the significant impact this model can have on improving outcomes for survivors statewide.

As local elected leader I recognize that violence and trauma impact not only individual survivors, but the overall health, safety, and wellbeing of our communities. The SAFE Center's commitment to collaboration with healthcare systems, law enforcement, advocates, prosecutors, and community partners reflects the type of coordinated response necessary to improve outcomes for survivors and strengthen public safety across Iowa.

Polk County is proud to support initiatives that improve community health, expand access to essential services, and create meaningful long-term impact for Iowans. The SAFE Center of Iowa represents a critical investment in the health and safety infrastructure of our state and will serve as an important resource for survivors, families, healthcare professionals, and community partners alike.

I strongly encourage continued support for the SAFE Center of Iowa and its efforts to expand access to expert, trauma-informed care for survivors throughout Iowa.

Sincerely,

Matt McCoy  
Chair, Polk County Board of Supervisors