MERCYONE

MercyOne Des Moines
Emergency Department
1111 6th Ave
Des Moines, Iowa
50314

MercyOne.org

January 23, 2025

Shannon Knudsen, SAFE Center
Subject: Letter of Support for the SAFE Center

Dear Shannon and S.A.F.E. Center board of directors,

On behalf of MercyOne Emergency Department, we express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of the SAFE Center and its mission to provide comprehensive care and support to survivors of sexual assault in our community.

The SAFE Center's vision aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing compassionate and high-quality care to all patients, particularly those who have experienced trauma in our community. We recognize the critical need for specialized services for survivors of sexual assault, including:

- **Immediate Medical Care:** The availability of a dedicated, free-standing sexual assault clinic staffed by SANE nurses will ensure timely access to essential medical care, including forensic examinations, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and treatment for injuries.
- **Comprehensive Support:** The SAFE Center's integrated approach, offering access to advocacy, counseling, legal support, and long-term care, is crucial for the holistic well-being of survivors.
- **Data-Driven Advocacy:** The Center's commitment to data collection and analysis will be invaluable for informing policy changes and improving the response to sexual assault in our state.
- **Enhanced Training:** By expanding SANE nurse training programs, the SAFE Center will contribute significantly to improving the quality of care provided to survivors across Iowa.

We believe that the SAFE Center will be a vital resource for our community, offering survivors a safe, supportive, and confidential environment to receive the care they deserve. We are eager to collaborate with the SAFE Center and explore opportunities for partnership to ensure the best possible outcomes for survivors of sexual assault.

Sincerely,

Sydney Leach, MD
MercyOne Des Moines Emergency Medical Director

Hijinio Carreon, DO
MercyOne Iowa Chief Medical Executive