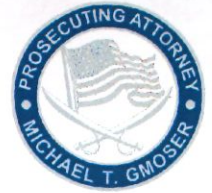




MICHAEL T. GMOSE
BUTLER COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Government Services Center - 11th Floor
PO Box 515 - 315 High Street - Hamilton, OH 45012-0515

To: Ohio House Finance Committee
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
From: Prosecutor Jessica Rodkey
Date: April 12, 2023
Re: Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center Funding Support

To the Members of the Senate and House Finance Committees:

My name is Prosecutor Jessica Rodkey. I am an assistant prosecutor in Butler County. During the course of my work as a prosecutor, I have referred a case to Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center ("OCVJC"). OCVJC is a statewide nonprofit that provides free legal representation and advocacy to crime victims to ensure their rights are protected during the criminal justice process.


I support funding for OCVJC because OCVJC's services have been invaluable to my staff and the crime victims we collectively serve.

My office and OCVJC have collaborated to serve Ohio crime victims when their private medical and mental health records have been subpoenaed by defendants. We collaborated to fight these subpoenas to ensure respect for victim privacy throughout the criminal justice process.

For the past twenty years, OCVJC has been doing this amazing work, serving the entire state of Ohio, while facing serious funding challenges. The Victims of Crime Act funding cuts of recent years have left OCVJC with even fewer funds to carry out its mission. These cuts have come at a critical time for victims' rights in Ohio, following the passage of the Marsy's Law constitutional amendment and 2022's House Bill 343.

I support state funding for OCVJC because it is now more critical than ever that victims of crime in our state have access to free, high quality legal representation to ensure that their constitutional and statutory rights are protected. I hope you will join me in supporting OCVJC.

Sincerely,



Jessica Rodkey
Assistant Prosecutor
Butler County Prosecutor's Office
315 High Street, 11th Floor
Hamilton, OH 45011
phone: 513-785-5752



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