



**Interested Party Testimony submitted to the
Senate Finance Committee
Sub. House Bill 110
Sondra Miller, President & CEO
Cleveland Rape Crisis Center
June 2, 2021**

Chair Dolan, Vice Chair Gavarone, Ranking Member Sykes, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Substitute House Bill 110. Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC) is the largest rape crisis center in Ohio, and among the largest in the country. We provide direct services to more than 10,000 survivors and their loved ones in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, and Lake Counties each year. Another 55,000 individuals are engaged through outreach, prevention, and training activities.

CRCC operates the 24/7 human trafficking hotline in Northeast Ohio. We provide intensive onsite services to victims of human trafficking including trauma recovery, workforce training, and basic needs. The Trafficking in Persons Study Commission found that more than 1,800 Ohio children ages 12-17 will be sex trafficked annually. Sex- trafficking survivors face extraordinary barriers to seeking support. In addition to using physical and psychological violence, threats, and coercion, traffickers prey on those who are already vulnerable using age, language barriers, and other disadvantages as ways to achieve power and control.

CRCC collaborates with the Department of Youth Services through a memorandum of understanding to provide targeted prevention services for youth coming out of detention. These youth are among the most at-risk population for trafficking in the state. **There is currently no funding tied to this MOU, and we ask for your support of an amendment to Sub. House Bill 110 to provide \$300,000 each fiscal year for these services through the DYS budget.**

You heard testimony yesterday from the Ohio Alliance to End Sexual Violence, of which we are a member, regarding significant federal VOCA cuts that rape crisis centers across the state faced last year. CRCC received a 55% cut in our VOCA allocation last year, a nearly \$2 million loss. These cuts were significant and came at a time when demand for our services is higher than ever. Unfortunately, programs have been told to brace for an additional cut in VOCA funds this October and we recently learned our funding will be reduced by an additional \$700,000.

We are very appreciative of the increase to the Rape Crisis Center line item, however, the increase will not come close to covering the VOCA reductions and cuts to services will be necessary without an additional investment from the state. Please support this funding request so that CRCC may continue to provide valuable services to victims of human trafficking. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.