



# Crime Victim Services

Website: [www.CrimeVictimServices.org](http://www.CrimeVictimServices.org) - E-mail: [victim@CrimeVictimServices.org](mailto:victim@CrimeVictimServices.org)

## Allen County

330 N. Elizabeth St. - 2nd Floor  
Lima, Ohio 45801  
Phone: 419-222-8666  
Fax: 419-227-7478

## Putnam County

338 E. Third Street  
Ottawa, Ohio 45875  
Phone: 419-523-1111  
Fax: 419-523-3900

## Senate Bill 238

February 14, 2020

Dear Chairman McColley and the members of the Transportation, Commerce, and Workforce Committee:

Please accept this letter in support of Senate Bill 238. I am a licensed social worker in Ohio and the Director of Day One at Crime Victim Services in West Central Ohio. At Crime Victim Services (CVS), we believe communities thrive when all members prevail over trauma and support one another with empathy and respect. Since 1981, we've been leading the way in education, advocacy, and outreach to facilitate healing in West Central Ohio. In 2019, Day One served 524 primary victims of sexual violence and human trafficking.

We provide a variety of services for survivors of sexual violence and one of them includes an adolescent support group for youth, ages 12-17 utilizing the Mind Matters curriculum and an adult support group for survivors of sexual violence and human trafficking. Both of these groups aim to create an environment where survivors can become empowered through education about healthy relationships and creating space for self-care. We have had the unique privilege of working with an art therapist to enhance creative expression, deepen communication and facilitate paths of healing for those in the group who have been victimized. Many times young people who have been victimized are silenced by blame or guilt. Art therapy provides them with a safe and healthy outlet to share and recover with others experiencing similar situations.

Lastly, it's all too common among helping professionals for them to experience burn out or vicarious trauma. We walk alongside survivors of violence each and every day and because of the level of trauma they have experienced, it also requires us to give a significant piece of ourselves with every case. In order to engage in meaningful self-care, we have utilized art therapy with staff to help them process what this work means to them, how it is impacting them and how they are making a difference.

Having a trained, professional art therapist provide these specialized services has proved to be beneficial in profound ways. From witnessing a 14 year old survivor take the first steps to healing by utilizing techniques shared by the art therapist, to seeing a 27 year old human trafficking survivor write her experiences of exploitation down for the first time, art therapy truly has made a difference at our organization. We cannot emphasize enough how vital these services are in our community and hope to see more professional art therapists integrated into what we do across the state of Ohio.

Sincerely,

*Kathryn "Ryn" Farmer, MSW, LSW, RASS*

Kathryn "Ryn" Farmer, MSW, LSW, RASS  
Director of Day One  
Crime Victim Services  
[rfarmer@CrimeVictimServices.org](mailto:rfarmer@CrimeVictimServices.org)

### We help victims recover:

Safety / protection  
Healing / trauma  
Justice / be heard  
Restitution / money

### \*Victim Advocacy

Felonies  
Misdemeanors  
Juveniles  
Unsolved Crimes

### \*Rape Crisis 24 hours

1-877-867-7273

### \*Domestic Violence

Putnam County 24 hours  
1-877-867-7273

### \*Court Appointed

Special Advocates (CASA)

### \*Child Advocacy

Center (CAC)

### \*Human Trafficking Victims

Northwest Ohio Rescue  
& Restore Coalition

### \*Elder Abuse Victims

### \*School Violence Prevention

### \*Victim Offender Dialogue