



Gina DeGenova

Mahoning County Prosecuting Attorney

May 15, 2023

Ohio House Finance Committee
Ohio Senate Finance Committee

Re: Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center Funding Support

Members of the Senate and House Finance Committees:

As the Mahoning County Prosecuting Attorney, I would like to affirm my support for the 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. The Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office staff regularly attends trainings provided by OCVJC. As such, I support funding for OCVJC because OCVJC's services are invaluable to my staff and the crime victims we collectively serve.

For the past twenty years, OCVJC has been doing 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, recently enacted, 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,

Gina DeGenova
Mahoning County Prosecutor