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May 11, 2023

To: Ohio House Finance Committee  
Ohio Senate Finance Committee  
From: Luke Jones  
Date: May 11, 2023

Re: Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center Funding Support

To the Members of the Senate and House Finance Committees:

My name is T. Luke Jones. I am the County Prosecutor in Fulton County. During the course of my work as a prosecutor, I have referred cases and attended trainings provided by 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 rights to privacy and to be present in the courtroom have been violated. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Luke Jones", written over a horizontal line.

T. Luke Jones  
Fulton County Prosecuting Attorney