



City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Office of the Prosecutor
Justice Center, Courts Tower
1200 Ontario Street, 8th Floor
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1604
216/664-4850 • Fax: 216/664-4399
www.city.cleveland.oh.us

To: Ohio House Finance Committee
Ohio Senate Finance Committee
From: Aqueelah A. Jordan
Date: April 20, 2023
Re: Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center Funding Support

To the Members of the Senate and House Finance Committees:

My name is Aqueelah A. Jordan. I am the Chief Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Cleveland, in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. During the course of my work as a prosecutor, I have referred a case to, and/or attended a training from 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.

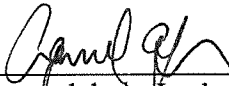
I support funding for OCVJC because OCVJC’s services and training have been invaluable to my staff and the crime victims we collectively serve.

My office and OCVJC have collaborated to serve Ohio crime victims when clients needed additional supports. OCVJC stepped in and assigned advocate(s) and attorney(s) as necessary to adequately meet the needs of the community members. The need for trauma informed advocates and attorneys is only increasing as we see more community members taking advantage of these resources.

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,



Aqueelah A. Jordan
ajordan@clevelandohio.gov
(216) 664-4850