



Legislative Newsletter

March 2023

Spring Advocacy Day



THANK YOU to everyone who attended ODVN's Advocacy Day on March 23. Gov. DeWine included \$20 million for domestic violence services in his proposed budget, but the legislature has the final say and must agree to keep the funding in the budget. More than 70 advocates met with 40 legislators on the issue after an advocacy event at the Riffe Center, which included speeches from six of ODVN's legislative champions.

[Click here](#) to watch a recording of our event!

State Issues

S.B. 50: Next Generation 9-1-1 System

ODVN submitted proponent testimony to support efforts in the creation of the [next generation 9-1-1 system](#) to improve life-saving communication and emergency response for victims.

[Read More...](#)

H.B. 33: Operating Appropriations for FY 24-25

On March 8th, ODVN's Policy Director, Maria York, provided testimony on the importance of funding domestic violence programs to the House Finance Subcommittee on Public Safety. Read ODVN's full testimony [here](#).

[Watch ODVN's Testimony](#)

H.B. 51: 2nd Amendment Preservation Act

ODVN shared our concerns with members of the House Government Oversight Committee regarding H.B. 51 and the possible decreased safety for domestic violence victims.

[Read More...](#)

H.B. 14: Equal Parenting Time and Responsibilities Bill

ODVN wants to be clear that we are not opposed to the concept of shared parenting when there is no domestic violence or child abuse and both parents are able to work together. The danger of presumptive equal parenting time and decision-making is that it immediately assumes that it is good for all children and without careful regard to what is actually happening in a home. In effect, HB 14 elevates the rights of all parents, even abusive parents, over the safety and well-being of children.

On March 21, ODVN provided Opponent testimony on H.B. 14. Read our full testimony [here](#).

H.B. 343 (Marsy's Law)

On March 29th, Gov. DeWine held a ceremonial signing of HB 343, Marsy's Law. This legislation will create standards and implementation for law enforcement and other criminal justice entities to uphold crime victims' constitutional rights and officially goes into effect on April 6th. If you are a victim service provider, please [register with OCVJC](#) to take the updated Marsy's Law Victims' Rights training.



Congratulations to the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center and Rep. White for their tireless work to pass this legislation!

Federal Issues

FY 24 Federal Appropriations Requests

This month, ODVN submitted Fiscal Year 2024 (FY 24) appropriations requests to every member of Congress, urging them to increase essential funding for domestic violence programs across the nation. Our priority programs include:

- Funding the Victims of Crime Act Fund (VOCA) at \$2 Billion (VOCA is made up of fines and penalties paid by federal criminals, not taxpayer dollars, and funds nearly 6,500 victim services organizations)
- Funding the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) at \$526 Million
- Supporting a Culturally Specific Public Health Approach for Survivors at \$35 Million
- Funding the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) at \$1.14 Billion
- Allocating Domestic and Sexual Violence Funds for Homelessness Assistance at \$90 Million
- Funding to Address Immigrant Survivors at \$15 Million

Please review the [FY24 Appropriations Factsheet](#) and the [17th Annual Domestic Violence Counts Report](#) and contact your Member of Congress below, urging them to fully support these lifesaving programs!

[CONTACT CONGRESS](#)

Homeland Security Department Proposed Rule

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) [posted a proposed rule](#) that, if implemented, would increase many of the filing fees that immigrants pay for various benefits, visas, and services. There are several potential impacts that the proposed fee rule would have on immigrant survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, and gender-based abuses. This month, ODVN signed onto a [national letter](#) outlining our concerns.

United States v. Rahimi

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit in *United States v. Rahimi* struck down 30 years of federal law prohibiting those under a domestic violence civil protection order from possessing firearms. In a unanimous decision, the three-judge panel ruled a domestic violence abuser subject to a civil protection order has a constitutional right to possess a firearm. Additionally, it is for those respondents who are intimate partners as defined under federal law.

Read the National Network to End Domestic Violence's [statement on this decision](#).

Clarifying Information for Ohioans

- Ohio is in the 6th Circuit Court. This decision *only* applies to 5th Circuit: Texas, Missouri, and Louisiana. There is no national injunction. If you live outside the 5th Circuit's jurisdiction, this does not impact you **yet**.
- Decision *only* strikes down federal law prohibiting persons subject to civil domestic violence protection orders access to firearms ([18 USC § 922\(g\)\(8\)](#)). It does NOT strike down federal law prohibiting access to firearms from persons convicted of domestic violence ([18 USC § 922\(g\)\(9\)](#)). (G)(9) still remains in effect.
- Decision does NOT overturn any state law that prohibits access to firearms from persons subject to domestic violence protection orders, even in a state within 5th Circuit's jurisdiction. For example, Texas & Louisiana state laws that prohibit access to firearms for persons subject to domestic violence protection orders remain in effect.

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