



Legislative Newsletter

May 2023

House Passes Budget

The Ohio House included our full request of \$20 million for domestic violence programs in its FY 24-25 budget! This would not have happened without YOUR advocacy!

We still have work to do as the budget heads to the Senate. However, including our full request in the House version of the budget has strengthened our position considerably as we continue our conversations with Senators.

If you haven't already, please [click here](#) to send a thank you email directly to your Representative.

State Issues

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

ODVN's Director of Health and Disability Programs, Rachel Ramirez, provided written testimony in support of a proposed amendment to H.B. 33 that would increase funding for brain injury services to \$1.1 million. Read our full testimony [here](#).

H.B. 343 Press Conference

ODVN's Lisa DeGeeter and Maria York joined staff from the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center and other victim-serving organizations for a press conference on H.B. 343. On April 6, 2023 H.B. 343 went into effect after Governor DeWine signed it into law earlier this year. This legislation will create standards and implementation for law enforcement and other criminal justice entities to uphold crime victims' constitutional rights. [Read more...](#)



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

S.B. 100

ODVN provided supporting remarks on SB 100, which would prohibit a person from knowingly installing a tracking device on another's property without consent. Read our full testimony [here](#).

Federal Issues

Sign-On Letter for Federal Appropriations

The National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (NTF) is circulating a sign-on letter in support of VAWA, FVPSA, VOCA and related programs in FY24 Appropriations.

If you are representing a program or a shelter, please [review and sign](#) for your organization by **May 5th**.

DOJ Dear Colleague Letter: Revised Fines & Fees Guidance

The Civil Rights Division, Office for Access to Justice, and Office of Justice Programs together issued a Dear Colleague Letter for state and local courts, juvenile justice agencies, advocates, and leaders regarding the imposition and enforcement of justice system fines and fees. The press release announcing the letter's release can be found [here](#), and the letter itself can be found [here](#). Additionally, the New York Times released this [story](#) about the guidance.

New HART Service Center

At the beginning of this month, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced the opening of the Humanitarian, Adjustment, Removing Conditions, and Travel Documents (HART) Service Center, the sixth service center within its Service Center Operations (SCOPS) directorate, and the first to focus on humanitarian and other workload cases. HART will have a dedicated team of specially trained staff responsible for adjudications, including VAWA self-petitions (I-360), issuing U visa bona fide determinations (I-918), and reunification of refugees and asylees with their family members (I-730). The Alliance for Immigrant Survivors (AIS) suggested that this development holds the promise of better and more timely responses to the immigration petitions of survivors of gender-based violence such as domestic abuse, sexual assault, and human trafficking. [Read more...](#)

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