



# Legislative Newsletter

February 2024

## Gun Violence Prevention Summit

The Ohio House Democrats are sponsoring a Gun Violence Prevention Summit from 10am to 12:45pm on Feb. 15 in the Ohio Statehouse atrium. ODVN's Policy Counsel, Lisa DeGeeter, will participate in a panel with Minority Leader Allison Russo, Rep. Michelle Grim, and public safety and health stakeholders. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

## State Issues

### S.B. 187

In December Assistant Minority Leader Hearcel Craig (D-Columbus), Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio (D-Lakewood) and Senator Vernon Sykes (D-Akron) announced their plans to introduce [four gun control bills](#).

ODVN supports all the bills but is especially excited about [S.B. 187](#), which would prohibit individuals with a misdemeanor domestic violence conviction from possessing a firearm. Although federal law already prohibits such individuals from possessing firearms, gaps in Ohio law subvert the federal statute.

[Senate Bill 164](#) would give Ohioans the option to temporarily relinquish their ability to purchase or possess a firearm if they believe they are at risk of self-harm. [Senate Bills 188](#) and [189](#) provide gun owners with options and incentives to safely store and handle their firearms.

### H.B. 385

Last month, in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month, State Representatives Tracy Richardson (R-Marysville) and Josh Williams (R-Sylvania) introduced the Expanding Human Trafficking Justice Act that will expunge certain non-violent crimes for victims of human trafficking. [Click here](#) to watch the press conference.

## Federal Issues

### Continue VOCA Advocacy!

As Congress works to pass appropriations bills before the March 2024 deadlines, we need your help telling them that a 40% cut to VOCA will be devastating and dangerous for survivors. **Congress needs to act now!**

[Send an email](#) directly to your member of Congress and Senators. We've included specific information about the VOCA funds, but please add information about your program or personal story.



(202) 224-3121  
Call the Capitol switchboard and ask to be transferred to your Representatives' and Senators' offices

Lifesaving services for millions of survivors are in jeopardy. There is a #Crisis4Victims. Don't allow \$700 million to be cut from victim services.

### House Passes Bipartisan Tax Bill

Last month the House passed a \$78 billion bipartisan tax package that would temporarily expand the child tax credit and enhance the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit in an effort to increase the supply of low-income housing. The bill also contains relief for those affected by disasters, including the Ohio train derailment in East Palestine last year. [Read more...](#)

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