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 include funding for brain injury services to $1.1 million. Read our full testimony here.

H.B. 343 Press Conference
ODVN’s Lisa DeGeeeter and Maria York joined staff from the Ohio Crime Victim Justice Center and other victims’ rights groups at an online press conference on H.B. 343 on April 6, 2023. H.B. 343 went into effect after the Ohio Supreme Court 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 here.

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 VAIV, FPVS/A, VCOCA and related programs in 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 an article 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 (NCOOPS) directorate, and the first to focus on humanitarian and other work-based cases. HART will have a dedicated team of specially trained staff responsible for adjudications, including VAIV self-petitions (I-260), issuing U visa bene fide determinations (I-914), and reunification of refugees and asylum with family members (I-730).

The Alliance for Immigrant Survivors (AIS) suggested that this development points the way to faster 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...

Missed the previous legislative updates email? Read last month's newsletter.

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